



EDUCATION

The sad life of a 4-year-old prodigy

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EXCLUSIVE

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Valerie Grove



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ON
FRIDAY
Pages 36-39

THE TIMES

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45p

Post Office to axe 16,000 in new surge of job losses

Calls for a strategy for recovery are being renewed after more job losses. Amid signs of growing union unrest 85,000 redundancies have been announced in the past three months

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

THE autumn wave of job losses turned to a flood yesterday with the announcement of another 18,000 redundancies - 16,200 of them in the Post Office alone. A further 7,000 were signalled in other areas.

The losses bring the number of redundancies announced since the start of September, when the latest round of job cuts started, to more than 85,000.

Yesterday's cuts came as motor industry unions disclosed that they were holding a ballot about an all-out strike at Ford over redundancies and as leaders of both sides of British industry said that they would urge John Major next week to take action on unemployment. Industrial analysts see no sign of the current wave of redundancies easing. As well as the huge cuts at the Post Office, 1,300 job losses were announced at Royal Ordnance and 200 at Lloyd's, the London insurance market. In

industry's review procedure would be unlikely to reopen.

The large-scale cuts prompted fierce clashes in the Commons. John Smith, the Labour leader, described the Post Office announcement as staggering, and demanded to know what the prime minister proposed to do to fight the cancer of unemployment.

Mr Major said everyone regretted job losses, but added: "The only way to create long-term sustainable jobs is to create the right policies that produce long-term sustainable growth. That is precisely what we are putting in place."

In a bad week for employment, with 900 job losses already confirmed at the Cammell Laird shipyard in Birkenhead, the biggest cuts yesterday were announced by the Post Office, which said that 15,000 jobs in the Royal Mail would have to go in the next five years as well as 1,200 jobs at Post Office Counters.

The Royal Mail jobs are going primarily because of new envelope-reading technology, which the Post Office hopes will be used on all letters by 1995. In London, where at least four large sorting offices are to be closed and as many as 5,300 jobs will be lost by March 1996, the recession and companies moving out of the capital have hit business. The Post Office has the capacity to handle six million items a day, but it is processing only 3.5 million.

Bill Cockburn, Royal Mail chief executive, said there would be no compulsory redundancies as the cuts would be achieved "painlessly" through natural wastage, running at 5 per cent a year. He denied Labour claims that the Post Office was being slimmed down for privatisation.

The Post Office is introducing an extensive package to ease the cuts and to increase labour flexibility, including help with housing, travel and other costs for employees who are moving to bring about more efficient working.

Royal Ordnance, the arms manufacturer owned by British Aerospace, did not rule out compulsory redundancies when it announced 1,300 job losses - more than 17 per cent of its workforce. The company blamed competition in overseas markets and the need to cut costs. Jobs will be lost at all the company's 11 plants.

Lloyd's said it was cutting 200 staff, but it was confident that it could avoid compulsory redundancies. Courtaulds, the textile group, said it expects to lose another 450 jobs in the second half of this year.

The government backed away from more large-scale job cuts yesterday when it announced a further delay in the long-awaited decision on the future of the Rosyth dockyard in Fife. Closure would put 14,000 people out of work.

An investigation by a governors' audit committee showed yesterday that BBC television overspent by £38 million in the 1991-2 financial year, and is

64 INJURED AS DOUBLE BOMB STRIKE HITS MANCHESTER



Blast trauma: a young woman caught in the second explosion is helped away from the city centre

IRA 'delayed' warning call

By Paul Wilkinson and Ronald Faux

TWO small terrorist bombs containing little more than 2lb of high explosive apiece dislocated the entire centre of Manchester yesterday. Sixty-four people needed hospital treatment, mostly for shock or minor injuries caused by flying glass, but the effect to the business community of the city will run into hundreds of thousands of pounds.

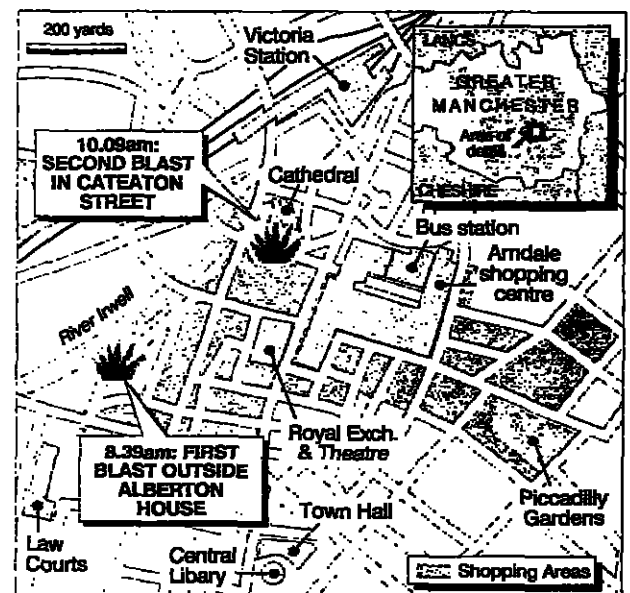
The prime minister voiced "disgust" in the Commons yesterday over IRA bomb blasts, although he did not directly refer to the Manchester attacks. Mr Major, noting the poor turnout for Sinn Féin at the recent Irish election, said: "I think that reflects the disgust that is felt, not only in this country but also in the Republic of Ireland, about the way in which

the IRA seek to bomb, kill and damage people's lives indiscriminately."

Offices and shops were closed and the city centre was barred to traffic as police bomb disposal experts carried out more than ten controlled explosions on suspect packages. None was a bomb.

John Patterson, assistant chief constable of Greater Manchester, accused the IRA of having planted the bombs to cause as much panic and disruption as possible and then deliberately giving confused warnings.

Some of those who escaped the first blast were shepherd-ed by police away from the scene to the area near the cathedral, only to be caught by the second explosion 90 minutes later. Commander



David Tucker, head of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad, who was helping with the investigation, said it was a terrorist tactic to send confused messages, intended to shift the blame from the IRA to the services.

The first explosion, which

came without a warning, was outside a tax office in a street parallel to the main shopping avenue of Deansgate at 8.39am as people were arriving for work, showering them with glass shards.

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BBC errors cost £60m

By Melinda Wittstock, Media Correspondent

THE BBC has disclosed that a series of television accounting errors made three years ago is likely to result in an overspend of more than £60 million, three times the sum the corporation originally admitted last September.

An investigation by a governors' audit committee showed yesterday that BBC television overspent by £38 million in the 1991-2 financial year, and is

destined this year to overspend by a sum exceeding £20 million. But the BBC pledged "remedial action" to keep this year's overspend "well below" last year's figure.

BBC1 and BBC2 have already been ordered to cut £20 million off next year's programme budgets, jeopardising the quality of next year's autumn schedules at the very time the BBC was hoping to make headway in the ratings battle with independent television. So far, three

drama series have been cancelled.

Will Wyatt, managing director of BBC television, apologised to viewers for the overspend, which he admitted would lead to more repeats in the new year. "We have had to reschedule our programmes to spread out what we have got. There will be more repeats. But we have done it in a way so it is not clearly evident to viewers," he said. "What has happened is deeply regretted."

Continued on page 2, col 7

Athlete wins £17m

A US federal court yesterday awarded £17.67 million in damages to Harry "Butch" Reynolds, the world 400 m record-holder, in his suit against the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF). It is sport's largest damages settlement (John Goodbody writes).

The IAAF is appealing, but if it loses and fails to pay, all international meetings in the United States, including the 1996 Olympic Games, could face court injunctions.

The IAAF was "malicious" in its treatment of Reynolds, the 1988 Olympic silver medal winner, who was barred from competing for two years after a positive drugs test in Monte Carlo on August 12, 1990. The IAAF extended the ban until January 1, 1993, when Reynolds took part in the 1992 Olympic trials after a US Supreme Court ruling.

The IAAF said last night that American courts had no jurisdiction in this case.

Details, page 48

Major rejects combat role for troops in Bosnian war

By Nicholas Wood and Michael Binyon

JOHN Major sought to clarify Britain's policy on Serbian aggression in Bosnia yesterday by announcing that, while considering military action to enforce the "no-fly" zone, it was not planning to commit troops to a combat role.

The prime minister said: "If further action is needed to enforce the no-fly zone, that is something that we would certainly wish to consider with our allies and partners in the United Nations. But we have no immediate plans to go further." By qualifying his remarks, Mr Major seemed to be leaving open the possibility that if the Serbs attack Kosovo, which is 90 per cent ethnic Albanian, Britain and its allies may harden their stance. In a sideswipe at his critics, the prime minister said it was all "too easy to be heroic with the lives of other people".

UN peacekeepers in the former Yugoslavia halted all flights for 48 hours yesterday after an aircraft carrying the UN commander in Bosnia, Major General Philippe Morillon, from Sarajevo was hit by small-arms fire. It landed safely in Zagreb and nobody was hurt.

President Gligorov of Macedonia went to Downing Street yesterday in an attempt to persuade Mr Major that the European Community should lift its refusal to recognise his isolated country under the name of Macedonia. Failure to reach agreement could lead to an EC row and the danger of conflict in the region.

Officials played down talk of Britain pushing for any change in the role of the UN forces in Bosnia, and said that no other Community country was yet calling for any offensive action against the Serbs. They conceded, however, that Britain was now looking at possible military responses to

Serbian aggression, as well as ways of tightening sanctions. Britain may also call for the stationing of UN troops in Kosovo, where a small mission of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe is monitoring the stand-off between the Albanian majority and the Serbian authorities.

Saudi Arabia yesterday gave a warning that some Islamic states would break the arms embargo on the former Yugoslavia if the UN does not end "Serb aggression against Bosnia's Muslims" by January 15. But Prince Saud al-Faisal said that the Islamic world was committed to peace efforts and "no one wanted to see the

British troops in Bosnia came under fire from opposing sides for the first time yesterday. In separate incidents, artillery fire was aimed at the British UN contingent near the Serb frontline at Turbe and Muslim gunmen appeared to aim automatic fire at soldiers outside their base in Vitez.

conflict spread". The 50-member Islamic Conference Organisation set the UN a 44-day deadline to end the war in Bosnia with a resolution urging military intervention and calling for a lifting of the arms embargo that is blocking supplies to Bosnia's Muslims.

Earlier, Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, and Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, had reported to the cabinet on the latest developments and attended a meeting of the overseas and defence committee.

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An almighty crump shook the building ... then people really began to feel afraid



Rocked by the bombers: two men shield themselves as the blast of the second IRA explosion shakes the centre of Manchester yesterday

Ninety minutes of terror and panic as bombs strike heart of Manchester

BY RONALD FAUX AND PAUL WILKINSON

NINETY minutes of terror and confusion were described yesterday by the men and women caught in the two IRA bomb attacks in Manchester.

Police anxious to direct people away after the first blast during the morning rush hour unwittingly shepherded them towards a second and bigger bomb 300 yards away, near the city's cathedral. Sixty-four people were injured and shops and offices in the heart of Manchester's business district were severely damaged.

Anonymous telephone calls

warning that four devices had been planted in the centre of the city were received by the Samaritans and the BBC ten minutes after the first device exploded at 8.39am. It was planted in a flower bed outside Alberton House, a tax office off Bridge Street. The blast shattered windows in the building and the block next door, Cardinal House, showing office workers with glass and wreckage and leaving a large crater in the roadside.

The explosions caused panic in the city centre. Injured

workers and passers-by, cut by flying glass and bleeding, scattered and looked desperately for safety and help. The injured were taken to hospitals in Manchester and Salford, where emergency procedures were put into operation. One victim, Neil Tattersall, had been cleared from the Argos store where he worked and was standing in the street near the Arndale Centre when the second bomb exploded, firing shrapnel into his back.

People sheltering in Manchester Cathedral

grounds were caught by the second blast, which went off in a side road near Cateaton Street at 10.09am.

The first explosion was close to Kendal's department store. Nicky Walker, a shop manager, was less than 100 yards away. "I have never seen or heard anything like it in my life. Shattered glass was thrown everywhere. People were running away screaming. Staff poured out of Kendal's in panic. It is beyond belief how anyone could plant a bomb in a busy area like this

in the middle of rush hour. These people clearly don't care."

Paul Crosby, a building restorer, had just arrived for work at his office. "We were in our cabin and it suddenly rocked. We did not know what the hell was happening and then a man came running out of one of the buildings streaming in blood."

Fred Pressler, a computer worker whose office is near Alberton House, said he and his colleagues were showered with glass at their desks. "I am lucky to be alive. I had ordered sandwiches by phone and was about to leave to pick them up when the bomb went off. If it had exploded a minute later, I would have been next to it."

Robert Levy and Nathan Marks heard the first explosion and saw the window of their office blow in. "It happened in slow motion. Had we been sitting at our desks we would have been decapitated. The bang, shock and vibration were terrible."

The Right Rev Colin Scott, acting Bishop of Manchester, described the explosions as a cynical attempt to disrupt the city and its Christmas trade. "I can see no way how the problems of Northern Ireland can be solved by murdering and maiming innocent civilians," he said.

A man working in the bishop's office said that people were herded from the first blast to the cathedral for safety. The building has thick, blast-proof walls and was marked as a safe refuge in security alerts. "At first, people seemed to be a little irritated that they were unable to get to work," he said. "But the second explosion changed all that. There was an almighty crump that shook the building, and then people really began to feel afraid."

Graham Stringer, leader of Manchester City Council, appealed to Mancunians not to be intimidated by terrorism. "They are trying to damage the working life and the economy of the city. We must not let that happen."

Warning call, page 1

17 years on, Imbert remembers

BY CHRISTOPHER ELLIOTT

IN JULY 1975, Sir Peter Imbert, then a superintendent in the Bomb Squad, stood in the White Tower of the Tower of London and watched some of the 30 people injured in an IRA bombing being carried away. The blast had ripped through a throng of tourists, killing one and causing devastating injuries.

Now a Commissioner for the Metropolitan Police who has spent much of his career fighting terrorism, he conceded that little had changed. Of yesterday's bombings he said: "It is almost pathetic that you cannot get through to them to show them they are achieving absolutely nothing."

"The only conclusion is that there really has to be a resolution, whether through a political settlement or indeed exhaustion that their bombing campaign is going to achieve them nothing."

Sir Peter was speaking as he revisited the Tower to make a presentation to East End children supporting a crime prevention campaign. No warning was received in time to save the tourists in the Tower or the Christmas shoppers in the Arndale Centre yesterday.

The IRA has consistently said in recent years that it is not at war with the British public and has blamed the police for incompetence when there have been casualties. This has infuriated the police, who resent IRA messages even being termed "warnings". They believe they are just an aspect of a propaganda strategy designed to show the authorities in a bad light.

That the bombers have switched to another city after the failure of three bomb attempts in London is no great surprise to the police. Up to 40 IRA members may be involved but with only a handful on the mainland at any one time. It is widely accepted that there is at least one group in the South and another in the North.

The switch to Manchester is likely to add pressure for a national anti-terrorist squad.

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Molluscs rise to cockleshell hero

Parliament yesterday proved a lucky dip of the exotic, the hilarious, the intriguing and quite a lot of sawdust.

There is no time to tell you about the statement entitled "Flooding: Wales" to which English MPs hurried, interested to find out how long it would take to flood Wales. Nor have we room to examine the proposals of the president of the board of trade for a "one-stop shop". With Heseltine at the check-out counter, MPs were examining their change.

And we must move fast through agriculture questions, starting with question 1 about fraudulent farmers. Why was a Portsmouth MP asking about this? The last time we noticed David Martin (C, Portsmouth South) was when he became upset about homosexuality in Her Majesty's forces. Having transferred to his interest to agriculture, he was yesterday spared the opposition cries of "Give us a kiss" and "Hello, sailor".

Our perplexity deepened as the rich Welsh tones of Gareth Wardell (Lab, Gower) called us to question 2, about "processing bivalve molluscs". An unilluminating ministerial reply had Wardell back on his feet crying in the accent, and with all the passion, of a chapel preacher that "there is no way, Madam Speaker, that the cockle-gatherers of Pembrokeshire" who had been "cockle-gathering since the middle ages" could cope with new rules. Added, now, to Jones-the-milk and Di-the-post, Gareth-the-cockle will be the toast of bivalve molluscs all along the Gower peninsula.

Brows still furrowed, we pinned back our ears for a lament from Anthony Steen (C, South Hams). The question was about agricultural set-aside (a scheme whereby farmers are paid not to farm). Steen's complaint was that there were now so many golf courses in his constituency that ramblers were in more danger from flying golf balls than from bullets on the military training ground on Dartmoor.

Laughter had barely subsided when the enormous Nicholas Soames — gourmet, food minister and butler mountain — rose to agree with a backbench colleague that planners were often too obstructive. "The countryside cannot be preserved in aspic," roared Soames. "If it could, you'd eat it," shouted a Labour wag, to general merriment.

Merriment increased when Blackpool's Nick Hawkins, a young Tory who

has taken his town's commercial instincts to heart, confessed to "my concern for the large mushroom growers of the North West", and asked ministers "to join me in congratulating Pide House Mushrooms" who had just won a business award ... Hawkins paused ... "sponsored by First Leisure plc".

"After that short break," began the secretary of state, John Gummer, in reply.

All good stuff. But did the question on fisheries have to follow one from Peter Pike (Lab, Burnley)? And, when the minister, David Curry, had painted a mouth-watering North Sea picture of "all those haddock out there" and declared to the nation's fishermen that "if we find there is much as one fish left, we will authorise them to catch it," did Madam Speaker have to call out, barely suppressing a giggle: "Mr Salmon?" Alex Salmond (SNP, Banff and Buchan) rose, with all hope of his question receiving serious notice already lost.

When Madam Speaker addressed Iain Sprouat (C, Harwich) as "Mr Sprout", some of us felt that the comic possibilities of food, farming and fisheries questions had been all but — well, milked.

At prime minister's questions, the House took a turn for the equally bizarre but suddenly serious. Labour's Chris Mullin, one of the Commons' self-styled parliamentary sleuths, waved a questionnaire at the PM which, he said, Mr Major (then an unheard-of junior minister) had answered in September 1986. Major had attached his name, said Mullin, to the proposition that Freemasons in any high public office should declare their affiliation. Was that still his view?

In the momentary pause before Major replied, I fancied that almost every mind in the House turned to the exquisite dilemma of how poor John Major would get out of that one. He got out of it in a way which few with any experience of politics could have guessed. "Yes," he said.

It was left to the Tories' Derek Conway to propose a name for the public holiday which will replace May Day. "In the new spirit of European co-operation," he said, "how about Trafalgar Day, or Agincourt Day, or Waterloo Day?" With his eye on next week's Edinburgh summit, but unable not to smile, the prime minister fudged his reply.

TV accounting errors cost £60m, BBC says

Continued from page 1

table." Although the overspend was discovered by Mr Wyatt last May, the BBC did not disclose it in its annual report. "The BBC need only report on its overall budget," Mr Wyatt said.

Yesterday's admission came two months after Sir Michael Checkland, the outgoing director-general and an accountant, said that "flaws" in the accounting process had led to a £20 million projected deficit. His statement was prompted by disclosures in *The Times* last September that the overspend was between £50 million and £70 million. Lord Barnett, vice-chairman of the governors and chairman of the audit committee, said: "The overspend is of grave

concern to the board. Remedial action has been taken." The muddle was caused by a number of factors. Mr Wyatt said money freed by cuts in overheads three years ago had been allocated twice for the commissioning of programmes. The overspend has also been blamed on increased expenditure on independent production at the same time as the in-house production payroll and resources levels have been maintained.

Earlier this week Ian Phillips, the corporation's director of finance, resigned. But last night the BBC again denied that Mr Phillips's resignation was linked to the overspend, but BBC sources said the Lord Barnett had suggested he leave.

Clarke joins call for justice watchdog

BY RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH Clarke has called for the creation of an independent body to investigate alleged wrongful convictions and decide whether cases should be sent to the Court of Appeal.

He joins the growing consensus of senior politicians, Home Office officials and members of the legal system supporting the establishment of an organisation with the power to carry out enquiries into alleged miscarriages of justice.

Mr Clarke disclosed his support for an independent body yesterday when the second report on the May enquiry into the case of the Maguire Seven was published. The Maguire Seven's convictions for operating an IRA bomb factory were quashed by the appeal court last year.

In his report, Sir John May, a former appeal court judge, says the new

machinery should have the power and resources to investigate alleged wrongful convictions, including the authority to call for all documents and exhibits. It would then refer the results of its enquiries to the appeal court for adjudication. In a written parliamentary answer, Mr Clarke said he had put forward the same proposals when he gave evidence recently to the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice.

Sir John's 97-page report says that the Maguire Seven were the victims of a serious miscarriage of justice. The report largely clears the prosecuting authorities over their decision to press ahead with the case in spite of concern expressed by the then attorney-general, the late Lord Silkin, about the adequacy of the evidence against the Maguire Seven. He says prosecution counsel was "substantially misled by the scientists". The report adds that "the context of the prevailing bombing campaign and the atmosphere of the trial are

likely to have made it impossible for them to make a wholly objective and dispassionate appraisal of the admissible evidence alone."

Home Office ministers and officials also escape blame for the way they handled representations about the case. Sir John says that officials in the C3 department, which dealt with alleged wrongful convictions, operated within Home Office criteria. But he adds that the criteria left no room for references based on "lurking doubts" that might be felt by officials or ministers.

He reserves his strongest criticisms for the government scientists who failed to disclose details of tests and experiments carried out for the trial. "It has been shown that the whole scientific basis upon which the prosecution was founded was in truth so vitiated that on this basis alone the Court of Appeal should be invited to set aside the convictions."

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Gifted pupil is a sad little boy, says his former head

Schools must try to balance the intellectual needs of gifted youngsters with ensuring that they have a happy childhood

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE gifted four-year-old who has started university classes was described yesterday by the principal of his former school as "a very sad little boy" who may never know a happy childhood.

Publicity last weekend had blamed two schools attended by Nicholas MacMahon for failing to cater for his high intelligence, frustrating him with a diet of colouring books. He is now taking computer lessons at the West London Institute, part of Brunel University.

Madeline Harvey, head of Coniston School, in Reigate, Surrey, said yesterday that Nicholas had attended classes for only three mornings and had been given individual attention. Unlike other gifted children attending the independent primary school, he had been unable to adapt socially.

Mrs Harvey said in a letter to *The Times*: "Nicholas MacMahon, for the brief time he was with us, walked around with shoulders hunched, head bent, unable to communicate with anyone very well, with hands over his ears to block out the noise of other people—and we are a small and relatively peaceful school. This may be because he is used to one-to-one relationships but society, and certainly schools, are composed of groups of people. I have to say that we found Nicholas a very sad little boy."

Nicholas has been said by Valia Koshy, his tutor at the institute, to possess "absolutely remarkable, profound intelligence". Mrs Harvey, who worked with him, found him gifted but did not have the opportunity to assess the ex-

tent of his brilliance. "You can imagine our surprise on seeing in the newspapers that Nicholas was bored, distressed and disruptive, that his teachers could not cope and had given him colouring to do," Mrs Harvey wrote. "This most certainly was not the case."

Nicholas was accepted at Coniston for a two-week trial but attended only three times, compared with two mornings at his previous nursery school. Mrs Harvey said. The school then suggested ending the arrangement. "It is difficult to do anything for a child who is not attending school."

The school has 90 pupils aged between three and eight. A five-year-old pupil has also been assessed as outstandingly gifted and the school considers itself well-equipped to cater for unusually bright children.

Mrs Harvey, who has 25 years' experience of senior school language teaching, wrote: "We believe strongly at this school that a child is entitled to a happy childhood and we work hard to contribute to that. I very much fear that this is something Nicholas MacMahon will never know."

Peter MacMahon, Nicholas's father, declined yesterday to respond to Mrs Harvey's comments. "There are lots of things I could say, but we have had enough. I don't want to say anything at the moment," Nicholas spoke fluently before he was one, taught himself to read and now identifies insects by their Latin names and reads encyclopaedias. His parents cannot afford the fees at other private schools dedicated to teaching the gifted.

Nicholas's parents are considering teaching him at home. Mr MacMahon said on Sunday: "We don't believe in pushing him into doing exams at an early age or achieving anything in particular. We let him set the pace."

Arson in schools costs education authorities £75 million a year, the equivalent of building 15 secondary schools, research commissioned by the government has shown. An unpublished report by academics at Sheffield University, quoted last night on BBC2's *Public Eye*, finds that one in six schools suffers fire each year, and arson is suspected in 71 per cent of cases.



Designer's touch: Christian Lacroix makes a last-minute inspection of the costumes he created for *Waltz of the Flowers*, one of the highlights from *The Nutcracker* performed by English National Ballet in last night's ball celebrating the work's hundredth anniversary. The evening was held in the Foreign Office's Durbar Court

Footballer cleared of assault

A FOOTBALLER was yesterday found not guilty of "cynically and deliberately" thrusting his elbow into an opponent's face during a mid-air duel for the ball.

In a rare prosecution over an incident on the field during a Football League match, the Brentford striker Gary Blissett, 28, had denied causing grievous bodily harm to John Uzzell, a Torquay United defender, on December 14 last year.

The jury at Salisbury Crown Court reached its verdict after seeing a video recording of the incident, which had led to Mr Blissett being sent off. Mr Blissett, of Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, said it was an accident as the two players jumped for the ball. His sole intention had been to win the ball.

Mr Uzzell, 33, had to be operated on for injuries that included a fractured left cheek bone and eye socket floor. After the hearing, he said he would see a medical specialist to discuss whether he could resume playing professionally.

Drink-drivers offered chance to reduce ban

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of drink-drivers may have their driving bans reduced under a pilot scheme to help them deal with alcohol abuse.

Magistrates at 28 courts from the Western Isles to central London will have the power to offer offenders the chance to pay about £150 for rehabilitation courses lasting 16 to 30 hours. If the course is completed successfully, the driving ban may be cut by up to a quarter.

The aim of the three-year experiment, which starts next year, is to cut the number of people who commit more drink-drive offences. Ten per cent of the 100,000 motorists convicted annually re-offend within three years.

Rehabilitation courses in the United States and Germany, which have operated since the 1970s, have had some success in reducing repeat offences. In Germany 13.5 per cent of those who attended a course on alcohol behaviour re-offended, compared with 17.7 per cent of those who did not. Kenneth

Carlisle, transport minister, said: "The courses will provide a real opportunity to change an offender's attitude before he or she drives again. It will not be a soft option."

The courses will give information about alcohol consumption and its effect on driving ability and behaviour, and may include shock tactics such as pictures of the injuries caused by drink-driving incidents.

Twelve thousand offenders are expected to take part in the pilot project but the courses will not be open to anyone convicted of a drink-driving offence in which someone has been killed. Accepting a place on one will be voluntary but an offender must have a 100 per cent attendance record before the magistrates court will consider reducing the length of a driving ban.

The government will launch its annual Christmas campaign against drink-driving on Monday. Seven hundred of the annual 4,500 road deaths are estimated to be linked to drink-driving.

Oxford suicide a mystery

AN inquest yesterday failed to resolve why an 18-year-old student hanged herself just days after taking her place at Oxford University.

Nicholas Gardiner, the Oxford coroner, said he was satisfied that Tracey Cole had intended to kill herself. Miss Cole, who was reading English at Lady Margaret Hall, had taken her own life by hanging herself with the cord from a dressing gown.

Her parents, Christopher and Margaret Cole, of Exeter, Devon, heard the coroner say: "It may have been simply a moment of despair and nothing more than that. Tragically, the means were at her disposal."

Miss Cole's body was found on October 15 in the room into which her parents had helped her unpack her belongings just a week earlier.

Court bans shoplifter from all major stores

By A STAFF REPORTER

A WOMAN was yesterday banned from every department store and supermarket in Britain after a rash of shoplifting offences. Magistrate Roy Sanderson imposed the blanket ban on Sally Sparks, 22, as a condition of bail at London's Marlborough Street court.

Sparks, unemployed, of Poplar, East London, had appeared in court on a shoplifting charge for the second successive day. She had several previous convictions and was found to be in breach of a conditional discharge and a probation order, both for shoplifting.

Yesterday, Sparks admitted stealing two T-shirts from British Home Stores in Oxford Street in October and failing to appear in court on November 17. She was kept in custody overnight after being granted bail by Thames magistrates on Wednesday on a charge of stealing food from a branch of Tesco in East London, which she also admitted. Mr Sanderson remanded Sparks to appear at

Thames court on December 30 for sentence.

An animal-rights activist who carried out a smokebomb attack on McDonald's in High Street, Kensington, southwest London, has been barred from all the company's branches as a condition of bail after a jury at Southwark Crown Court, South London, convicted him of affray.

The assistant recorder, Timothy Workman, warned Christopher Tucker, 29, that although he was being allowed bail for the four weeks it would take to prepare pre-sentence reports, there was a real prospect of him being sent to jail.

Geoffrey Gelbart, for the prosecution, said Tucker, who has a previous conviction for a paint-spray attack on McDonald's, threw across the counter what staff first thought was a bomb. An Iraqi politician's son who worked part-time in the restaurant snatched the smoking device and hurled it into the street. Staff then chased and caught Tucker.



Nicholas: now going to university classes

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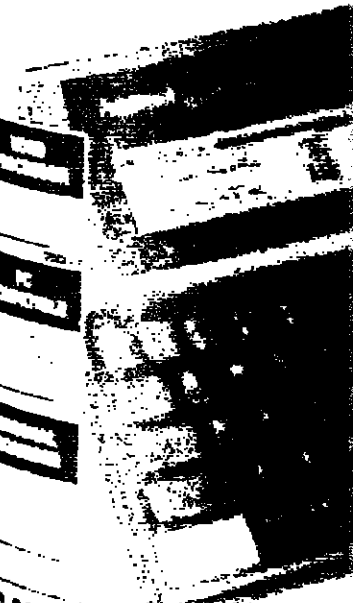
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Thousands of lecturers at risk after jobs ruling

■ Fear of compulsory redundancy will be raised among lecturers after a test-case judgment by the country's highest court

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A UNIVERSITY professor yesterday lost a long-running test case over whether senior lecturers can count on keeping their jobs until retirement without fear of being made redundant on cost-cutting grounds.

In a ruling thought to have implications for the jobs of some 18,000 senior lecturers, five law lords, headed by Lord Keith, unanimously dismissed an appeal by Professor Edgar Page, a philosophy lecturer made redundant by Hull University in October 1988.

The law lords upheld the centuries-old immunity of University Visitors from scrutiny by the courts. They said they had no power to review a decision by a Visitor where he had not acted outside his jurisdiction or abused his powers, and could not interfere in Professor Page's case. Lord Griffiths added, though, that he was satisfied that in this case the Visitor's decision was correct.

Since a ruling in 1694, the common law has recognised that "the Visitor acting as a judge has exclusive jurisdiction, and that his decision is final in all matters within his jurisdiction," Lord Griffiths said.

"The common law courts have through three centuries consistently resisted all attempts to appeal decisions of the visitor," he said. "If it is thought that the exclusive jurisdiction of the Visitor has outlived its usefulness, which I beg to doubt, then I think it should be swept away by Parliament and not undermined by judicial review."

Professor Page, 61, whose case was backed by the 31,000-strong Association of University Teachers, was the first don to be made compulsorily redundant. Younger dons are not involved because their

contracts contain redundancy provisions.

Professor Page was granted a tenured appointment at Hull in 1966 to run until a retirement age of 67. He claimed the university's decision to make him redundant because of its financial difficulties was unlawful because it was contrary to its charter and statutes, which stated that staff could be dismissed only for incompetence or gross misconduct.

The university's decision was upheld by the University Visitor — a law lord and privy counsellor appointed on behalf of the Queen to review the case — in October 1989, but quashed by means of judicial review by the High Court. The Court of Appeal then upheld the university's case.

Lord Browne-Wilkinson said yesterday that the Visitor was applying not the general law of the land but a "peculiar, domestic law" of which he was the sole arbiter and with which the courts were not concerned.

Judicial review could not therefore be used to impeach the decisions of a Visitor taken within his jurisdiction on questions of either fact or law, although it could be used against him where he acted outside his jurisdiction, abused his powers or acted in breach of the rules of natural justice.

Consequently the High Court had no jurisdiction to hear Professor Page's application for judicial review of the Visitor's decision in his case.

The Association of University Teachers said it was "profoundly disappointed" that the House of Lords had not upheld the High Court decision that Professor Page's dismissal was unlawful.

Diary, page 20
Leading article, page 21



Fingering the Triads: secret hand signals revealed in the case and, right, Wai Hen Cheung, the hitman who turned supergrass. The signals are used by the leader of a Triad lodge, top left, a branch leader, top right, and a lesser member, bottom right. The bottom left signal shows that a member has carried out a serious crime

Five cleared of Triad shooting conspiracy

FIVE Chinese men were acquitted at the Old Bailey yesterday of plotting to shoot a Hong Kong businessman during an alleged Triad power struggle. The jury, which spent nearly three days deciding the verdicts, was discharged after failing to reach a decision on a sixth defendant.

Lam Ying Kit was shot four times at close range in London's Chinatown last September. He was believed to have been trying to take over the Triad Shui Fong in Britain and was crippled as a warning to others, the prosecution said.

Wai Hen Cheung is awaiting sentence after admitting the shooting. He gave evidence for the prosecution in the trial of the six. The defence suggested that he may have accused his enemies while

protecting his real Triad associates.

The five cleared of plotting to cause Mr Lam grievous bodily harm were: Shui Cheung Wan, Tak Kam Chow, Chong Chi Chan, Wai Yuen Liu and Wai Wan Ho. The jury could not reach a decision on Wai Ming Tang, who may now face a retrial.

Wai Ming Tang and Shui Cheung Wan were later convicted of attempting to pervert the course of justice in trying to stop Wai Hen Cheung from talking to the police. They will be sentenced later.

During the trial, Wai Hen Cheung described the rituals of Triad initiation ceremonies. He claimed that they were often held in basements of Chinese restaurants. Blood was pricked from a finger into a glass of wine.



Baby mix-up may be linked to fire alert

By LIN JENKINS

MIDWIVES conducting the enquiry into the possibility that two babies were sent home with the wrong mothers are to investigate whether the mix-up happened during a fire alert.

On November 24, when the baby girls were born within hours of each other, an alarm sounded after cigarette smoke set off a smoke detector at the Princess Anne Maternity Hospital in Southampton.

When one infant went home last Friday she was found to have an identity tag on her ankle bearing the wrong name. The other baby was found to have tags on her ankle and wrist bearing different names. One couple have sent the child they took home

to another hospital until blood tests prove the parentage.

Peter Campion, spokesman for the hospital, said: "There would have been confusion on the ward and mistakes could have happened then. It appears someone was smoking under a detector and that set the alarm off. There was a fair amount of chaos."

The babies look similar and have no distinguishing marks. Blood tests to establish parentage will take up to a fortnight at two private laboratories. Quicker tests are available, but they require tissue samples or are less accurate.

The Royal College of Midwives yesterday reissued guidelines on name tags to their 36,000 members.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Doctor in lethal jab case returns to work

Dr Nigel Cox, the hospital consultant convicted of the attempted murder of a terminally ill patient, will return to his job in February, his employers said yesterday. The decision marks the end of a 15-month ordeal for Dr Cox, 47, who has been suspended on full pay since a nursing sister at the Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Winchester, informed managers that he had given a lethal injection of potassium chloride to Lillian Boyes, 70, who was suffering extreme pain from rheumatoid arthritis and had begged him to end her suffering. The sister has moved to another ward and will not be working with Dr Cox.

Wessex regional health authority said that Dr Cox had accepted the conditions for his return, set out a fortnight ago after the General Medical Council allowed him to continue practising. A senior consultant will oversee his work and he will be required to take part in meetings with nursing and other staff to "rebuild relationships".

The authority's decision was attacked by Life, the anti-euthanasia group, which said that Dr Cox should not have been allowed to return to work until after the term of his one-year suspended jail sentence, imposed in September.

Sex harassment win

A woman cleaning manager who was hounded out of her job after she complained of sexual harassment from her boss was awarded maximum damages of £10,000 by an industrial tribunal yesterday, in a case that the Equal Opportunities Commission described as "the most unreserved victory we have ever won". The tribunal in Ashford, Kent, was told that Jenny Weston, 34, area manager of Pall Mall Services Group, was dismissed after complaining of harassment from Colin Webb.

MP inherits mansion

The 15th century Madresfield Court, inspiration for *Brideshead Revisited*, has been inherited by the former Tory MP Sir Charles Morrison and his wife after three years of legal wrangling. Lady Morrison was niece of the former occupier, Countess Beauchamp, who died in 1989. Relatives have agreed that she and her husband will move into the 138-room mansion, set in 5,000 acres at Malvern, Hereford and Worcester. Countess Beauchamp wanted the estate turned into a cultural centre.

Nurses' scheme doubts

Student nurses on the government's project 2000 training programme have been mistaken for shop assistants, according to a critical report from the National Audit Office. The report casts doubt on the initial success of the project, set up in 1989, showing more students drop out of the new courses than traditional courses and suggests £207 million spent on the scheme could have been used more effectively. Over 14,000 nurses are on the scheme compared with 37,000 being trained conventionally.

Bird haven sold for £1

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has bought 300 acres of intertidal mud, sand and saltmarsh on the Hayle estuary in Cornwall from the businessman Peter de Savary for a nominal £1. The estuary, the most southwesterly in Britain, is nationally important for both wintering and migrating birds. In hard winters the estuary remains frost free, during the 1983-4 winter, nearly 19,000 birds could be found there. Some 343 species have been seen including widgeon, curlew and teal.

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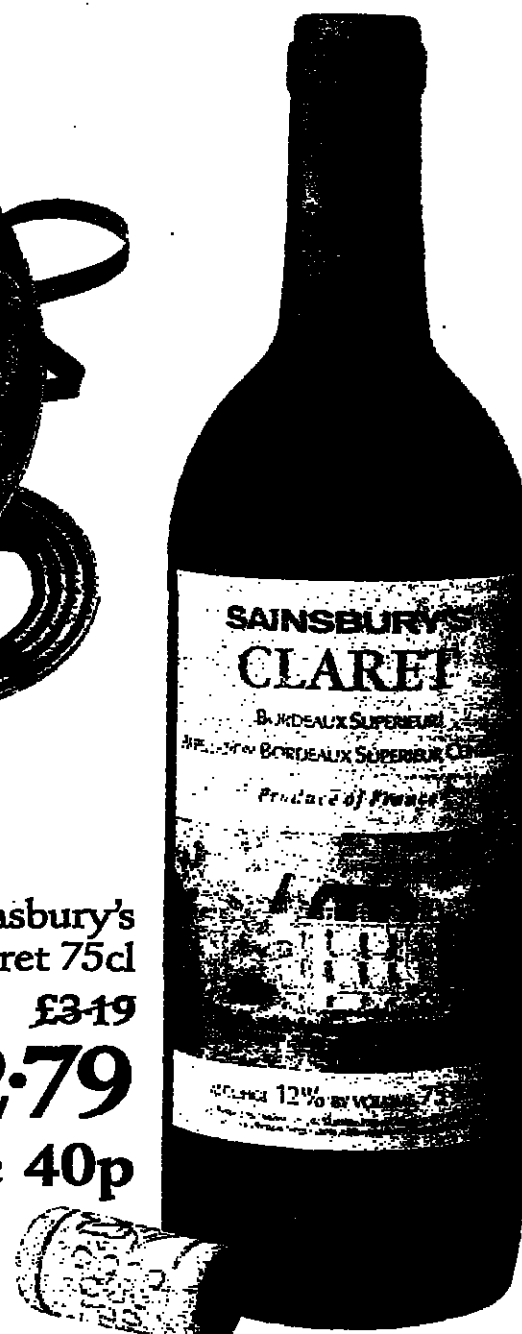
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Speech seeks to reassure Arts Council

Brooke puts his stamp on heritage ministry

By ALISON ROBERTS
ARTS REPORTER

PETER Brooke, secretary of state for national heritage, yesterday laid out his vision of a ministry, if not of fun, at least of lightheartedness.

Speaking at the Royal Fine Art Commission, he explained that his department would be neither inward nor backward looking. With a dash of David Mellor-style enthusiasm, the speech also reflected Mr Brooke's more traditional tastes. The main sporting events could be shared as "national pageants" he said, and the national lottery "has provoked an excitement, which I cannot help but share".

The department will not bury itself in the past, but seek ways of using the nation's cultural inheritance in a contemporary way. In particular, Mr Brooke said he will commission feasibility studies into using heritage buildings for modern purposes.

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Windsor Castle is not only a national monument but also the Queen's home, he said. "I hope that out of the fire, and the scar it has left, will emerge a reconstruction which commands widespread acceptance and a sense of national achievement," he said.

Mr Brooke announced that the department will be housed in new headquarters at 2-4 Cockspur Street, as first reported in *The Times*. The new premises are sited near Trafalgar Square, "under the watchful eyes of Landseer's Lions and in the shadow of Nelson".

The secretary of state also replied to the arts world's severe criticisms of the Autumn Statement settlement. Many felt privately that Mr Mellor, the previous national heritage secretary, would have emerged from the public spending round with more

than Mr Brooke's 2 per cent increase for the Arts Council budget, lower than inflation and in effect a cut.

He said the budget did not reflect long-term priorities. "I must emphatically reject the idea that the health of an area, or the esteem in which we hold it, is measurable either by the aggregate of direct government funding or by trends in that aggregate."

The speech held out tentative reassurance for the Arts Council, which is awaiting a decision on the delegation of some of its funding responsibilities to the regions, in effect giving government more control over some of the bigger arts organisations. "We are not about to enter the era of Ludwig of Bavaria, or Louis XIV, and there will be no state-approved artists or styles of artistic endeavour."



Sold short: difficulties connecting a telephone bidder kept down the price of *Study of a Nude with Figure in a Mirror* at Sotheby's yesterday

Bacon leaves £10m fortune to friend

By ALISON ROBERTS, ARTS REPORTER

THE artist Francis Bacon, who died in April, has left more than £10 million to his close friend John Edwards.

Bacon, who once summed up his life as "going from bar to bar and drinking and that kind of thing", met Mr Edwards at the Colony Room, a Soho drinking club, 15 years ago. They became inseparable friends, described yesterday as "Siamese twins" by Ian Board, the club's owner.

Among friends, no one doubted that Bacon would leave his estate, valued at £10,923,900 net, to Mr Edwards. That, however, did not prevent endless speculation within the art world, and many wondered whether there was a will at all.

He was famously unworldly, despite becoming Britain's most expensive living artist in 1989 when his painting *Trip-tch: May-June, 1973* was sold for over £3.5 million. Money was spent on friends, gambling and champagne.

Mr Edwards, one of six children of an East End publican, was said to be abroad yesterday. Mr Board

said he might give it to charity. "He knew what was going on in Francis's mind and it was no great shock to learn that he had been left the estate," he said.

Mr Edwards became Bacon's favourite model and features in some of his most famous work. Some experts suggested that a stash of paintings would be uncovered at the artist's new house in Kensington, but the publication of the will shows there to be none.

□ Problems with the international telephone exchange meant a Bacon painting failed to reach its expected £1 million price tag at Sotheby's yesterday.

A potential buyer of *Study of a Nude with Figure in a Mirror* of 1969 tried to link up with the London saleroom, but could not get through. As a result, bids faltered at £680,000 and the painting was announced unsold. However, negotiations after the auction ended with the caller acquiring the painting for about the price at which bids failed.

Business sponsors give more to the arts

THE value of business sponsorship of the arts rose during the financial year 1991-2. More than £57 million was pledged, an increase on the previous year of almost 29 per cent (Alison Roberts writes).

First-time sponsorship is also up, according to the annual report of the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts, published yesterday. However, businesses are cutting back on corporate membership of arts groups, which offers fewer opportunities for publicity. Corporate membership — the donation of money in exchange for perks such as guaranteed theatre tickets — has fallen by 37 per cent to about £8 million.

The association, whose

1992 awards are sponsored by *The Times*, said that businesses were demanding more from the arts in return for sponsorship money. More businesses requested that their name be included in the title of the sponsored event or organisation.

The arts in London attract almost 83 per cent of total sponsorship, largely through national organisations such as the National Theatre and the Royal Ballet. Scotland and Wales receive only 3 per cent and 0.5 per cent respectively of total sponsorship funds.

Literary events and organisations take only 0.2 per cent of the total. Businesses are more attracted to opera, giving it more than 55 per cent.

The way it isn't

CHAG BROWN



AROUND this time of year, I am always delighted to receive a round-robin from my old American friends, Al and Sally du Lally, telling me just how happy and successful the entire du Lally family has been over the past 12 months. They have asked me to reproduce some of their family's finer achievements in the pages of *The Times* over the course of the next few weeks so that "all those lovely new British friends we've yet to make can share in our good fortune".

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of age and at 260lb quite the little man! — has established himself after a lot of sheer hard graft and application as a computer whiz-kid. He is now able to play Nintendo for 15 hours a day, breaking only for a decent three-course meal to bolster his concentration, on the hour, every hour.

"Wally is the proud member of many local clubs and associations, having risen to the proud position of absentee secretary at Weight Watchers Anonymous and Frigidaires Manager of the local Home Nibblers Group."

"He recently became quite the local hero when he was chosen from over a thousand applicants to model the 'before' shot in an advertising campaign for a miracle slimming pill, and — fingers crossed! — he's been promised a feature in *National Enquirer* when he gets a little bigger. His yuletide message to Santa? 'I'll have the reindeer — old Rudy makes a great stew!! Cheers!'"

Next week: Jilly du Lally's excellent school reports.

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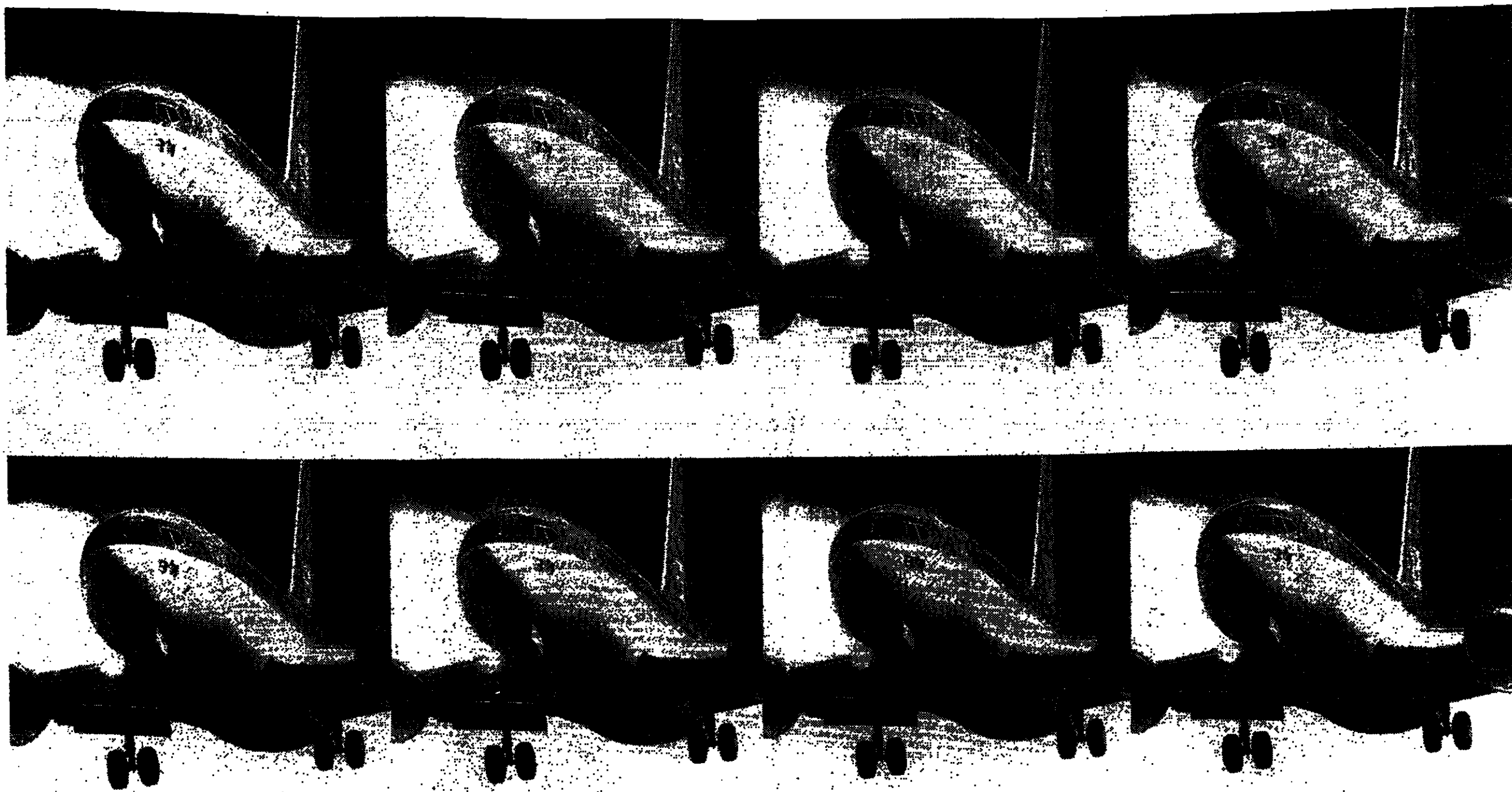
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1991 census: Britons are migrating from cities to countryside and from the North to the South

Unemployed bear cost of enterprise culture

By Ian Murray

PROOF that the Thatcher years saw profound changes in the social and economic geography of Britain has emerged from the first detailed studies of the 1991 census for the Royal Geographical Society.

They show that the former prime minister realised her ambition of creating an increasingly home-owning, self-employed population, but at a cost. Unemployment rose among males everywhere and among women in inner city areas. Nearly one household in ten relied solely on social security or pensions to survive, while 13 per cent of the population complained of chronic illnesses.

The Welsh coal mining regions appeared to be the most unhealthy in the country. In the Rhondda, over one in four complained of disease, followed by Port Talbot, Merthyr Tydfil, and so. Durham. Although the figures for mining regions in Scotland were

significantly lower, the mortality rate was much the same as in Wales. According to Professor Philip Rees of Leeds University, who has analysed the figures: "This either means the Welsh complain more than anyone else or the Scots are happier." The healthiest county of all was Berkshire, where 91 per cent did not complain of long-term illness.

The ageing of the population was another factor confirmed by the census, which showed that health authorities must prepare now to look after an ever-larger proportion of people in their eighties and nineties. The most noticeable trend was the mass migration from Scotland and the North towards the South, although pensioners have begun to forsake the South Coast retirement resorts in favour of the Home Counties, the Cotswolds and Wales.

There was also a drift from cities to the countryside, with 360,000 leaving metropolitan

areas and nearly 1.6 million choosing homes in new towns or estates built round established rural developments. The total population grew by 2.3 per cent to 54.54 million, although about one million people, mostly males in their twenties, are believed not to have filled in the census forms.

The entire growth of 1.25 million was in four regions, the East Anglia, South East, South West and East Midlands. In Scotland, the population fell by 1.5 per cent, and it also dropped in the North and North East, which lost a total of 18,000.

East Anglia was the fastest growing region, with the population there up by 10.4 per cent over the decade. The heavily populated South East, however, expanded by 547,000, an increase of 3.2 per cent, in marked contrast to the 0.7 per cent fall during the seventies. Milton Keynes was easily the fastest growing district and now has nearly 50 per cent more residents than in 1981. Chydebank, Glasgow and Merseyside, in contrast, all lost about one in ten of their population.

The London population remained virtually static after losing about one million residents during the seventies. However, the outer London population continued to fall while the number living in inner London grew by roughly the same amount, probably due to the higher fertility rate among the ethnic communities living there.



Sail your dreamboat: the Milton Keynes population is up by nearly 50 per cent

Working women go full-time

THERE was wide variation in employment rates, from 80 per cent in the Shetlands, Grampian, Wiltshire and Berkshire to less than 66 per cent in Merseyside and Mid Glamorgan.

All areas saw a decrease in the proportion of people in full-time employment, although the number of women working full-time grew everywhere, particularly in rural areas. Nearly all areas saw an increase in the number of self-employed during what the researchers describe as "the enterprise decade".

Unemployment was also found to vary between different population subgroups. In Luton, approximately 30 per cent of Bangladeshi or Pakistani males were out of work, compared with only 10 per cent of whites.

The population has aged, with 8 per cent fewer children under 18 than ten years ago, 7 per cent more in the working age group, and 6 per cent more pensioners. The number of people over 75 has gone up more than a third.

Inner-city areas and new towns have the highest proportion of children under five, while workers aged 18 to 44 are concentrated around London and in the Grampian region of Scotland. The number of over 75s has grown in the coastal retirement resorts and the number of people aged 66 to 75 has increased in the Home Counties and Wales.

London is centre for non-whites

THE non-white population has grown rapidly since the 1950s to three million and now makes up 5.5 per cent of the general population. Of this figure, 45 per cent lives in London, where one in five is now non-white.

The highest percentage is in Brent, where 44.8 per cent of the population is non-white, followed by Newham, Tower Hamlets and Hackney, where more than one in three is coloured. Outside London, the largest concentrations of ethnic minorities are in Leicestershire, Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Manchester, West Yorkshire and West Midlands. The proportion of non-whites in Leicester is 28.5 per cent and, in Slough, 27.7 per cent.

In contrast, non-whites make up less than 2 per cent of the population in Scotland, Wales, the North and South West. In rural areas, the figure is 0.6 per cent.

The census found that 1.6 per cent of the total population is black and that, of this, three out of five are of Caribbean origin. Indians made up a further 1.5 per cent and Pakistanis 0.9 per cent.

Most West Indians are in the London area, Indians are concentrated in Leicestershire, Pakistanis in West Yorkshire and the West Midlands, and Bangladeshis in London or Bedfordshire. The Chinese population is more evenly distributed over the country.

Number of one-parent families has doubled

THE average household size is down to 2.47 people. All regions of the country, even those where the population has fallen, have seen the number of households grow.

The proportion of people living on their own has grown to 26.8 per cent nationally, although in London the figure has reached 38 per cent.

The lowest number of "one-person households" is in areas such as Buckinghamshire where there are large numbers of young families. The number of one-parent families has doubled to 3.8 per cent of households since 1981, but the proportion is far higher in London (6.4 per cent) while it is lowest in rural areas (2.5 per cent).

Across Britain, there was an average of 8.8 per cent of households in which there was no wage-earner. The figure rose to 12 per cent in city areas. Mid Glamorgan, with a large number of unemployed former miners, had the highest proportion at 13.1 per cent.

HOUSEHOLD SIZES

Nationally, the census found that 66.4 per cent were now owner-occupiers, a rise of 10 percentage points during the decade. The growth was even higher in Scotland (14 points) although that was because in 1981 far fewer homes were owned there than elsewhere. The proportion paying council rents has fallen to 21.4 per cent, while only

12.2 per cent have private landlords.

More than four out of five homes now have central heating, with the lowest proportion in Merseyside and the Shetlands (63 per cent). On average, one house in five is detached, with almost one in three in terraces and the same proportion semi-detached. Purpose-built flats make up most of the remaining stock, although in inner city areas such as Tower Hamlets, east London, the proportion is more than 80 per cent.

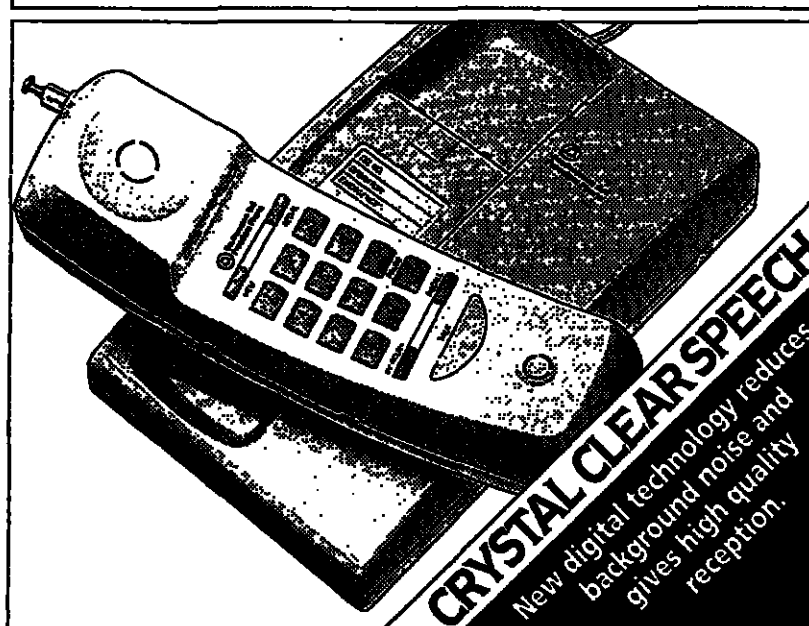
DISTRICT POPULATION CHANGES 1981-91

Fastest growing	% change	Fastest falling	% change
Milton Keynes	42.0	Shetlands	-14.8
Kincardine/Deeside	26.7	Chydebank	-12.2
Forest Heath	24.1	Glasgow	-11.2
Wokingham	21.3	Knowsley	-11.2
Gordon	21.0	Inverclyde	-9.5
Huntingdonshire	19.8	Liverpool	-8.2
Redditch	18.6	Salford	-7.9
Bracknell Forest	16.4	Dundee	-6.9
South Hams, Devon	16.2	Western Isles	-6.7
Northampton	16.1	Glasgow Monklands	-6.5
Selby	15.9	Manchester	-6.5
Peterborough	15.7	Port Talbot	-6.4

Source: Mid-year OPCS estimates

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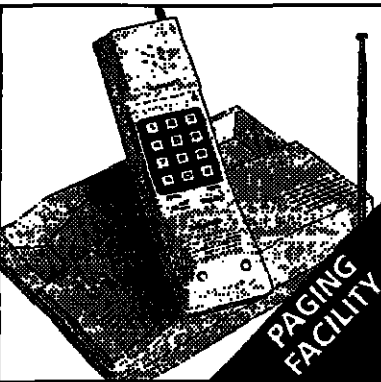
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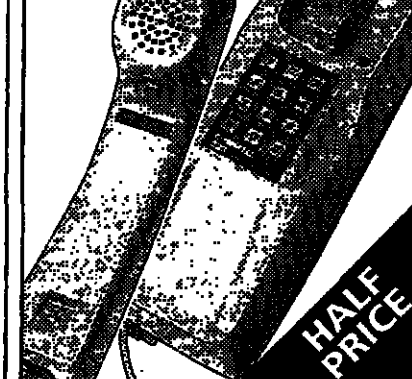


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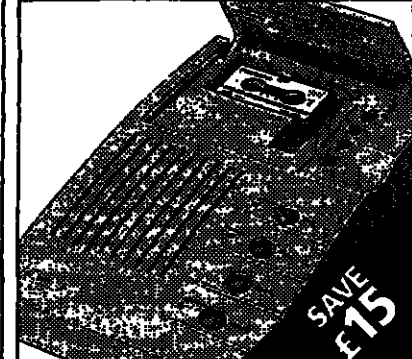
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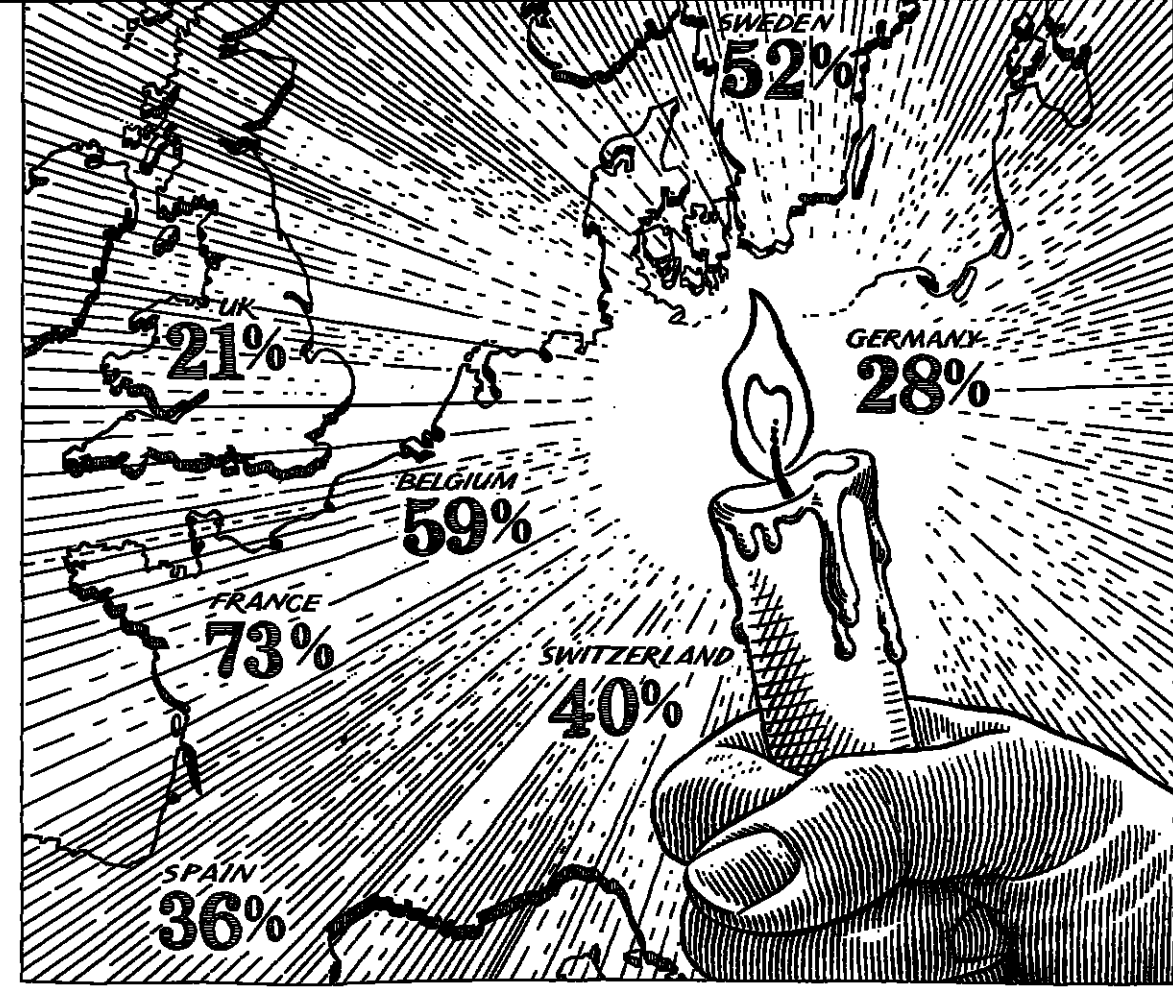
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Advice business

Union deals to Labour firm

THE TUC has agreed a deal with the Labour Party to help it win the next general election. The deal involves the TUC providing Labour with a list of 100,000 names of potential voters, and Labour providing the TUC with a list of 100,000 names of potential members. The deal is part of a wider agreement between the TUC and Labour to help them win the next general election.

We've got



Advice network for businesses launched

By JONATHAN PRYNN

MICHAEL Heseltine, the president of the board of trade, has launched the pilot phase of his scheme to provide a network of small business advice centres across England.

The initiative, which was flagged in the Conservative party election manifesto, aims to offer small- and medium-sized firms a local, One Stop Shop source of advisory services.

In a statement to the Commons, Mr Heseltine said the One Stop Shop scheme was aimed at simplifying "the present confusing array of support services". Currently, advice on areas such as exporting, training, technology transfer and design, is available through an ever-increasing plethora of organisations ranging from chambers of commerce to Training and Enterprise Councils (TECs) and the Department of Trade and Industry itself. No single

source currently provides the full range of services on offer. The first phase of the programme involves 15 pilot One Stop Shops being set up next spring. Mr Heseltine is inviting competitive bids from would-be operators, and a prospectus outlining the scheme was launched yesterday. Bids must be submitted by January 29.

Mr Heseltine said bidders must demonstrate that they can "provide a wide range of high-quality services, both those available locally and using modern technology, those provided in other parts of the country or even outside this country". Wales and Scotland have separate business advice arrangements and are not included in the scheme.

Surveys of the business community have shown that about 60 per cent of firms are not aware of the advisory services available to them and that

most of those which do, complain about the bureaucratic maze they have to negotiate. Mr Heseltine said many of the schemes currently in operation were "too narrowly defined and more supplier than customer driven".

In the first year of the pilot scheme, the DTI will provide £3.5 million of funding topped up by local contributions, but the scheme is expected to be self-financing "as rapidly as possible". If the pilots are successful a full national network of shops will be developed, Mr Heseltine said.

The announcement of the programme, described by Mr Heseltine as paving the way for "a radical overhaul of business support arrangements", met only a lukewarm response from the Opposition.

Derek Fatchett, a Labour trade and industry spokesman, said he was surprised Mr Heseltine had made no statement on the further decline in British manufacturing industry following the announcement of major job losses at Cammell Laird, Royal Ordnance and the Post Office within the previous 24 hours. Mr Fatchett said that while he welcomed the One Stop Shop proposal, the country needed an "industrial strategy for Britain's future", not just a new pilot scheme. He said he was disappointed by the size of government funding for the scheme.

Paul Tyler, for the Liberal Democrats, congratulated the government on the One Stop Shop initiative, pointing out that a similar proposal featured in his party's manifesto.

MPs from both sides of the house asked Mr Heseltine to consider the circumstances of their own constituencies when deciding which areas should participate in the pilot scheme. Mr Heseltine said the success of bids would be determined purely by the quality of the bids and not by any regional considerations. Bob Cryer, the Labour member for Bradford South, said this could result in three or four pilots being set up in some areas "while other areas in much greater need" went without.



On reflection: John Redwood, the inner cities and local government minister, visits a new £4 million housing estate in Limehouse, in London Docklands, yesterday. The project consists of 42 low-cost homes



PM urges openness by Masons

John Major said at a question time that he stuck to the view that people in public life who were Freemasons should declare that fact. The prime minister was responding to Chris Mullin, Labour MP for Sunderland South, who is promoting a private member's bill containing such a provision. Mr Mullin asked Mr Major if he still held the view, expressed in response to a questionnaire in 1986, that police officers, magistrates, MPs, councillors and other public officials should declare if they were Masons.

Pension age

The judicial pensions and retirement bill, a government measure to put pensions for the judiciary throughout the UK on the same basis, was given a second reading in the Commons. It also provides for a common retirement age of 70 except in special circumstances. John Taylor, parliamentary secretary at the Lord Chancellor's department, said that the average age of High Court judges was now under 60. He predicted a marked increase in the number of women and those from ethnic minorities serving on the bench. The measure has already been passed by the Lords.

Act approved

The Sporting Events (Control of Alcohol etc) (Amendment) Act and the Car Tax (Abolition) Act were given Royal Assent.

In Parliament

Commons (9.30): Debate on a private member's motion on the United Nations.

PARLIAMENT NEXT WEEK

The main business in the Commons next week is expected to be:
Monday: Social security bill, committee and remaining stages.
Tuesday: Debate on Opposition unemployment motion.
Wednesday: Debate on fisheries policy.
Thursday: Debate on coastal protection and planning.
Friday: Private members' bills: local government (overseas assistance) bill, second reading.

The main business in the Lords is expected to be:
Monday: Debates on procedure and on citizens' advice bureaux.
Tuesday: Agriculture bill, committee, first day.
Wednesday: Debate on Hong Kong and China.
Thursday: Agriculture bill, committee, second day.

PR hopes fade in party review

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CAMPAIGNERS for proportional representation now concede that Labour's working party into electoral reform will not come up with any radical proposals and may even suggest retaining the status quo when it reports next March.

Jeff Rooker, Labour MP for Perry Barr, who is member of the Plant committee, has submitted a paper to the group arguing for the least radical form of PR — "a mixed member system" — where most MPs are elected in their constituencies by first past the post, with a small proportion allocated on a regional basis. The scheme would be weighted heavily in favour of the constituencies, possibly on an 80/20 split.

This system is similar to the

additional member system which the party has adopted in Scotland and which is used by some European countries. This sort of scheme is said to be favoured by John Smith, the Labour leader, if the party opts for change.

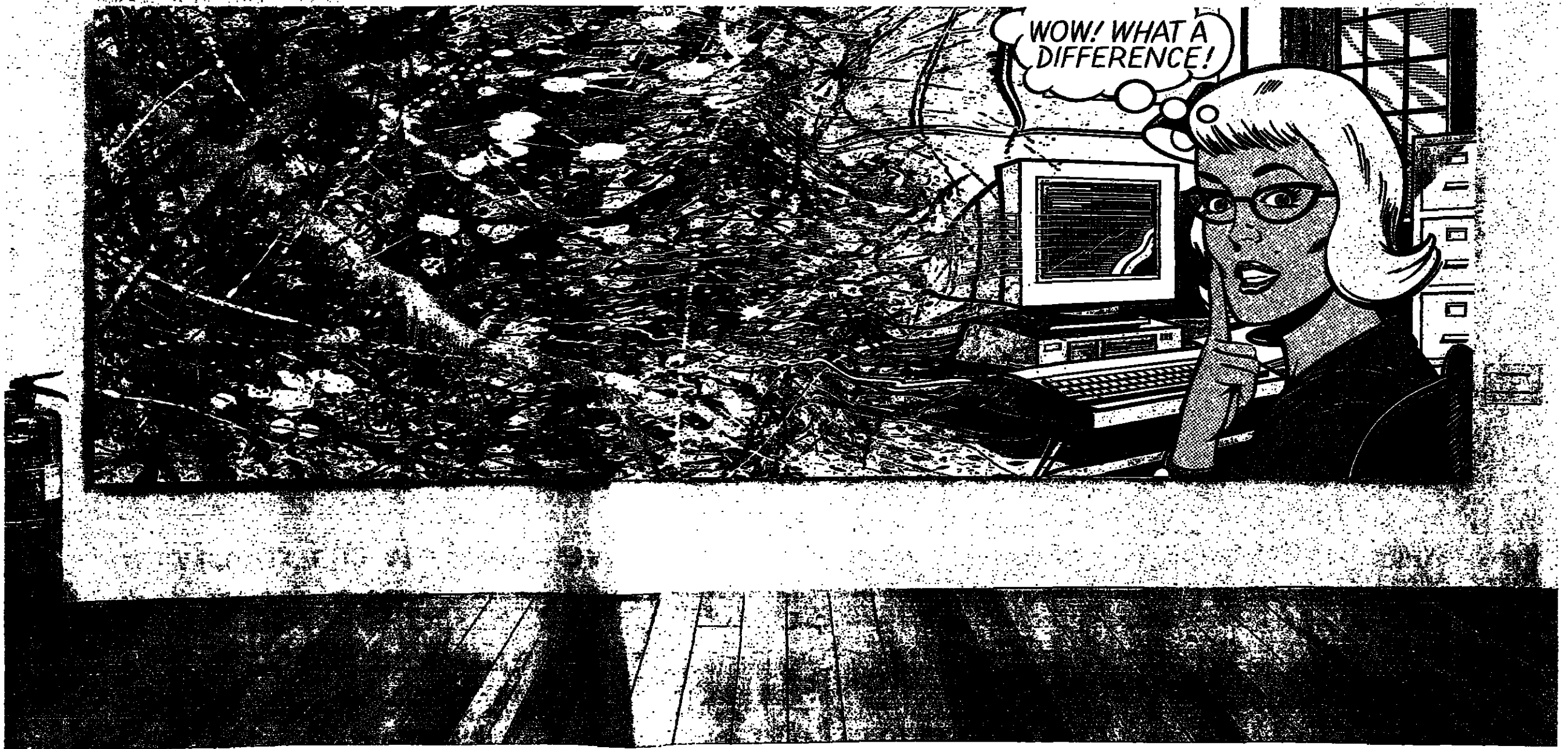
It is understood that Mr Smith does not consider electoral reform as a priority and may decide to postpone any policy decision on PR until much nearer the next general election. He has argued privately that there was little enthusiasm for PR at the Blackpool conference this year.

The Plant Committee is expected to produce recommendations in March, although other members of the working group concede that

they are nowhere near reaching a conclusion. The additional member, alternative vote — where preferences are given — or status quo are all being considered.

Mr Smith is expected to make his views known to the committee informally in the new year. Mr Rooker hopes to swing the majority of the Plant committee behind his proposal when it is discussed at a two-day session in the first week of January. The Plant committee has now decided to come up with its recommendations for the Commons before it decides on the system for Euro MPs and the House of Lords. A regional list system or single transferable vote scheme are the favourites for Europe and the Lords.

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Brawling deputies force closure of Russian Congress

Radicals and conservatives are creating bargaining positions in the form of motions they know will not be passed. The Yeltsin camp, aware that it cannot win alone, is courting its centrist opponents

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN MOSCOW

THE fraught Congress of People's Deputies ended its third day in chaos yesterday when a brawl erupted on the podium between conservatives and liberals over voting procedures.

Deputies from the Yeltsin camp surged around Ruslan Khasbulatov, the conservative Congress chairman, shouting abuse after a debate on whether a key ballot on constitutional amendments should be open or confidential ended in the assembly deciding on a secret vote. The liberals want an open vote, fearing the potential of "closet conservatives" to rock the government. They believed that Mr Khasbulatov had handled the debate in a way that favoured conservatives.

Surrounded by a gaggle of reformers, Mr Khasbulatov, excited at the best of times, cried: "Protect me from insults! Protect me from insults! Several deputies rushed to his aid. Mr Khasbulatov emerged tumbled and red-faced to adjourn the meeting until today, calling on deputies to calm themselves.

Earlier Yegor Gaidar, the acting prime minister, who is trying to retain office in the face of conservative opposition, offered to co-operate with the powerful centre-right Civic Union. He urged them to rally behind economic reform to save Russia from chaos. Mr Gaidar, whose record was harshly attacked on Wednesday by Aleksandr Rutskoi, the vice-president who supports Civic Union, appeared desperate to build bridges with the Union before the assembly

votes on whether to confirm him in office. Mr Gaidar's conciliatory style represents a sudden shift from his previously uncompromising line towards Civic Union, which is dominated by the military-industrial complex and wants a slower transition to the market economy, with the state retaining a substantial role. It indicates that the government has accepted the need to court the opposition.

Mr Gaidar sought to drive a wedge between the pragmatic Civic Union and what he called "the irreconcilable opposition". However, with the mood of Congress fiercely anti-government, the irreconcilable opposition of Mr Gaidar's nightmares was in confident mood, even subjecting President Yeltsin, who is usually treated with a modicum of respect, to strong personal attacks. One hard-line deputy accused him of acting as "Boris the Great" and called for his resignation on the ground that he had placed Russia under "the serfdom of the Western market".

The opposition is enjoying this opportunity to let off steam and with the government more concerned with survival than rhetoric, the best lines came from yesterday's men. "The programme of 'deepening reform' ought to be renamed 'deepening the crisis'," sneered Oleg Smolin, an Omsk deputy. Another remarked that Russia's economic crisis grew in direct proportion to the number of "anti-crisis measures" Mr Gaidar produced and that

Congress should forbid him publishing any more for the good of the country.

Mr Yeltsin issued proposals that would enable him to sidestep the twin conservative legions of parliament and Congress and give him sole control of ministerial appointments and key economic and fiscal decisions. He knows that he has not a chance of Congress agreeing to such a package but both sides were manoeuvring for position, setting out demands that can be traded off before the crucial votes that will decide whether the present radical reform course will be continued. Mr Yeltsin held closed talks with regional leaders, pursuing his strategy of promising more devolution from Moscow in return for their support.

The balance of power in Congress is unfavourable to the radical reform camp, forcing it to woo the Civic Union. The Union wants Mr Gaidar removed as its price for stabilising the government but other options are being discussed including the appointment of a Civic Union deputy to Mr Gaidar, probably Arkadi Volsky, the powerful head of the industrialists' union.

That would bring into the core of government the conflict over competing strategies for Russian reform. Any such deal with Mr Volsky, a senior defence industry man and aide to Presidents Andropov and Gorbachev, would be considered by radical reformers as the import of a particularly wily fox into the government hen house.

Droning classes drool over cake and circuses

BY ANNE McELVOY

THE Russian constitution enshrines the Congress of People's Deputies as "the highest organ of state power", which must bring comfort to members who spend the rest of their lives officiating in the towns and cities of the nation's backwaters, ignored by Moscow.

The aura of unaccustomed power hangs over the event and the preponderance of new suits, with shiny shoes clattering importantly across the Kremlin courtyards, betrays that, for most of the deputies, the two expenses-paid trips to the capital are the highlights of the year. This one is so convenient for Christmas shopping, too. No wonder that they rejected President Yeltsin's attempt to postpone it.

Forty-eight nationalities are represented, each fond of the sound of its own voice. One woman deputy spent 20 minutes bemoaning the effect of reforms on children's education. "There is no culture these days, just television and Coca-Cola. My grandchildren haven't even read *Timor and His Troops* yet." This had the potential to turn into one of those Commons debates on whether the young knew who Hamlet was or not. Mr Yeltsin quoted Catherine the Great and Pushkin, the opposition rallied with Tolstoy.

The deputies are traditionally solicitous of their own welfare, so the Kremlin Palace brims with cafeterias that dispense delicacies rare in the straightened circumstances of post-communist Russia. Mushroom jellies, meat-stuffed pancakes, plum cake and cream puffs—all heavily subsidised—distract from the business of governing the country.

Western journalists spent the morning session in gleeful anticipation of a grazing opportunity. The ingrained absurdities of Soviet planning persist. Congress adjourned for half an hour from noon and so, promptly, did the cafeterias.



Moscow focus: a Cossack from Rostov photographing deputies yesterday

"But it's our break," wailed the massed deputies, who had worked up a hearty appetite jeering the government. "It's ours as well," chorused the keepers of the people's cream puffs. "It says so in the work regulations." There was frantic scribbling

of proposals to amend rules governing the operation of cafeterias for the period of Congress. The government and the opposition were unanimous.

Back in the chamber, the proceedings took place under a large electronic scoreboard

flashing up the results of the voting in a procedure obstinately reminiscent of the Eurovision song contest. Yegor Gaidar, the acting prime minister and target of the hardliners, watched the early ballots nervously to study the form. Beads of

sweat formed on his receding brow at the prospect of his reforms gaining *nuls points* from the massed tribunes.

The electronic wizardry means that deputies have only 15 seconds to make up their mind how to vote, which confuses the tardier members. One deputy complained that he had been registered as an absentee twice because he had failed to hit the right button. "Must be from the Urals," muttered the Russian journalist with a Muscovite's disdain for the dim provinces.

The deputies removed themselves this time from the Palace of Congress, the architectural outrage perpetrated on the Kremlin by Nikita Khrushchev, claiming that it was too cold and the corridors were too long to walk in search of refreshments. Instead they glide through the gilded halls of the Kremlin Palace where a picture of Lenin dispatching the Bolsheviks to do battle hangs in the foyer.

Most of them will feel at home with this iconography as 87 per cent of them were Communist party members, something which lends the whole event a rather archaic touch. Political convictions may change, but the appalling dress sense and self-righteous drone of the hardliners transported the spectator back to the days of the old Supreme Soviet.

When they are not huddled in their factions or feeding their faces, the deputies can be found queuing for their grace-and-favour tickets to the Bolshoi and the circus. At six o'clock sharp, they disappear, political passions supplanted by pleasure-seeking among the not-so-bright lights of Moscow.

Mikhail Gorbachev in his day learnt the valuable lesson of what really motivated the voting in a procedure obstinately reminiscent of the Eurovision song contest. Yegor Gaidar, the acting prime minister and target of the hardliners, watched the early ballots nervously to study the form. Beads of

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mitterrand sees Kohl over Gatt

Bonn: President Mitterrand of France arrived yesterday for talks with Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, before the European Community summit which starts in Edinburgh next Friday.

M. Mitterrand held a first round of talks with Herr Kohl before a working dinner. A second session will take place today. The two leaders will concentrate on the Uruguay round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, and the Maastricht treaty. They will also discuss the future of German MEPs, since the 18 deputies who went to Strasbourg after unification have only observer status. (AFP)

Suspects waver

Karlsruhe: Two German far-right extremists who admitted a bomb attack in which three Turks died in Mölln are considering withdrawing their confessions, prosecutors said. They will still be charged with murder. (Reuters)

Final judgment

Rome: Domenico Signorino, a leading anti-Mafia judge, has become the third person in a week to commit suicide after being accused by a Mafia informer of having connections with organised crime. More than 200 Mafia suspects have been arrested in the past few weeks. (AFP)

Georgia rule

Moscow: Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian leader, has placed all ministries under immediate martial law, according to the Interfax news agency, in an attempt to end the war in the breakaway region of Abkhazia. (AFP)

Israelis swoop

Jerusalem: Israel has arrested about 450 members of Islamic and PLO groups opposed to Middle East peace talks in the biggest swoop in the occupied territories since October. Censors held up reports of the crackdown. (Reuters)

Off the menu

Paris: Two years after German unification, there is still not a single restaurant which is worth recommending in the former communist eastern Germany, according to the latest Michelin guide, which reviewed 527 restaurants and hotels. (Reuters)

Honecker blames West for forcing him to build wall

FROM JOHN HOLLAND IN BERLIN

UNREPENTANT as ever, Erich Honecker, the former East German leader, yesterday rose from the defendant's chair to make a statement to a Berlin courtroom, saying he blamed the West for creating the circumstances which "forced" him to build the Berlin Wall.

On the sixth day of the trial of Herr Honecker and three other members of East Germany's communist leadership, who are accused of the manslaughter of 13 East Germans killed as they tried to cross the wall into the West, he denounced the case against him as a "farce" and a "political spectacle". For the past few weeks his lawyers had pursued delaying tactics to show that the 80-year-old former leader's health was not up to the rigours of a trial. Yesterday however, Herr Honecker looked and acted every bit the head of state he once was.

In a 90-minute address, interrupted several times by both catcalls and cheers in courtroom 700 of the Moabit prison, Herr Honecker said he was being labelled as a criminal by the German government which once extended its hand and recognition to him in a state visit to West Germany in 1987. "They're labelling as a criminal the people who were once received with honours," he said.

In a brief reference to those killed by his border guards, Herr Honecker said: "We were of course deeply concerned about any killings in East Germany. But the construction of the wall was a necessity." Warsaw Pact pressure and, above all, pressure from Khrushchev, the then Soviet leader, had necessitated erecting the wall, he said. As he spoke, he looked above and beyond the relatives of several of the victims. More than 350 people were said to have been shot dead by border guards or blown up by mines in no man's land around West Berlin and along the inter-German border.

Looking resplendent in a dark suit, white shirt and red tie and appearing relatively fit despite his liver cancer, which doctors say will claim his life within 18 months, Herr Honecker seemed to relish playing the role of accuser as he lashed out at the three successive West German governments that he claimed had

given him subtle support in perpetuating two Germanies as a way of preserving the balance of terror in Europe.

His supporters, led by members of the East German left-wing Spartakist movement, cheered him on as he denounced his accusers. Several times Herr Honecker clenched his fist and shook it in the air in a communist gesture. Some observers shook their head and said it reminded them more of earlier Honecker addresses to the communist party congresses than of a defence.

Outside the courtroom, an East Berlin former political prisoner said he found it a bit perverse that when the Germans put terrorists on trial they had no right to make an opening statement. But Herr Honecker had 90 minutes to deliver his "quatsch" (nonsense).

Herr Honecker was joined in the defendants' box again by Heinz Kessler, the former East German defence minister, Fritz Streletz, formerly

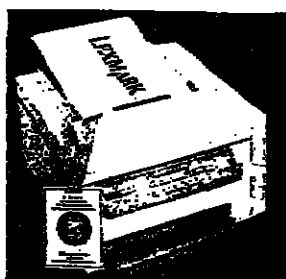


Honecker denouncing the case yesterday

Herr Kessler's deputy, and Hans Albrecht, the former communist party chief in the city of Suhl. All were members of the former National Defence Council which oversaw security at the wall. None of them elected to read an opening statement to the court, although court officials say that Herr Kessler may read a statement when the case is resumed on Monday. Two other defendants, Erich Mielke, the former Stasi security chief, and Willi Stoph, the former prime minister, have been excused from appearing in court because of their poor health.



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Peking keeps up the pressure on Patten but agrees to talk

China, while maintaining its tough stance with Britain, has embarked on a course to improve its relationship with Vietnam

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING AND JAMES PRINGLE IN HONG KONG

PEKING yesterday repeated a warning that it might abandon its agreement with Britain on Hong Kong's future if Chris Patten, the governor, did not step into line, but said that China would take part in talks with British officials next week as planned.

Li Jianying, acting foreign ministry spokesman, said at a weekly press conference that China would take part in Joint Liaison Group (JLG) meetings next week, and "hoped for positive results". These are the first meetings of the group to take place since Mr Patten announced proposals in October for expanding democracy in Hong Kong. Given the escalating row over the proposals there had been speculation that China would refuse to take part. That speculation grew when Peking said last month that it would not hold talks on political reform until Mr Patten withdrew his proposals.

The optimistic tone of Mr Li's remarks on the JLG meeting, however, was overshadowed by his reiteration of comments made by Zhu Rongji, the deputy prime minister, on his visit to London last month. "The issue facing the British side is now whether the Sino-British Joint Declaration and the other agreements reached between the two sides

are still needed," Mr Li said. The Joint Declaration of 1984 protects Hong Kong's way of life for 50 years after China takes over in 1997. Peking has said that if Mr Patten's proposals are put into practice, it will dismantle the legislature and the judiciary after it takes over, thus breaking the Joint Declaration.

The agenda for the JLG meetings next week has not yet been made public, but some discussion of Mr Patten's proposals seems inevitable. Many issues which are in theory unrelated to democratisation, such as Hong Kong's plans for a new airport, have become caught up in the growing row. British officials said they doubted that Mr Li's remarks about "positive results" meant that China was prepared to make any concessions, pointing out that Peking's rhetoric is becoming increasingly hardline.

Li Peng, the Chinese prime minister, was on a goodwill mission to Vietnam. In an effort to calm fears of Chinese expansionism, he agreed to negotiate with Hanoi over territorial disputes never previously acknowledged by China. One diplomat commented that Li Peng's visit — the first by a Chinese premier in 21 years — was in itself a concession to Vietnam, half of which

it ruled for 1,000 years. He said China was worried that Vietnam would use growing ties with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) — Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand — to convince the organisation that China had expansionist designs. "Vietnam is a threat for China because it has persuasive power in the region, not only with Asean but also with Japan," he said.

The Peking regime is evidently keen to improve relations with Vietnam. It angered Hanoi this year by announcing plans to search for oil off Vietnam's shores, by setting up a new presence on a small island in the disputed Spratly Islands and by seizing Vietnamese cargo ships sailing near southern China.

Speaking in Hanoi, Mr Li blamed Britain for the stock market crash in Hong Kong. Analysts said that China hoped its show of optimism and willingness to take part in JLG talks would boost the confidence on the stock market.



At ease: a Chinese boy dressed in People's Liberation Army uniform waiting at Peking's crowded train station. A larger terminus is under construction

They speculated that, after the talks concluded, China would blame Britain for their failure, plunging the market into chaos once again.

"They are using the stock market to terrorise the people of Hong Kong. They don't seem to care that people are losing a lot of money because of them," said one analyst.

Despite Peking's calls for Mr Patten to withdraw his proposals, China's leaders are probably aware that for him to do so would be to admit defeat and to ruin his political reputa-

tion. China's threats appear to be aimed at undermining his position in Hong Kong rather than at persuading him to change his mind. Mr Patten's proposals for extending the franchise in the 1995 elections have to be put to a vote in the Legislative Council in the spring before they can become law. China hopes to cause enough instability in Hong Kong before then to turn public opinion and the Legislative Council against Mr Patten.

In Hong Kong, Mr Patten

said that nobody had ever made any money by betting against Hong Kong. But as China kept up the pressure, the stock market slumped 433 points, the largest fall since the current round of political tensions began.

Mr Patten tried to put a brave face on things. "I have not done anything to affect what has happened in the market this week," he said.

He insisted the colony's economic base was probably sounder than in any other community in the world and,

with a wink and a nod, told investors: "I strongly suspect there are some rather good buys in the market at the moment."

But small investors were not buying and they clustered anxiously round brokerage windows to stare at television monitors as the Hang Seng index continued to slide. It has lost more than 1,000 points already this week, a fall of 17 per cent, closing yesterday below the 5,000 mark.

Among the toughest critics of the governor was Sir Percy

Craddock, the former ambassador to Peking and adviser to Margaret Thatcher, in a widely disseminated BBC interview, in which he declared: "I would say this is the most serious crisis we have had over Hong Kong for the last ten years. To find anything like the same state of tension you would have to go back to the Cultural Revolution in the Sixties."

Letters, page 21
Shares dive, page 25
Investors suffer, page 29



Diplomatic drive: Li Peng waving to Vietnamese officials at the end of a three-day visit to Hanoi

March on mosque divides Hindus

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

TENS of thousands of Hindus are heading for the holy city of Ayodhya for the second time in two years to try to knock down an ancient mosque. The world's second largest Muslim population is being confronted by the same religious extremists who sent a wave of destruction across northern India in 1990.

This time Muslims may have reason to be less fearful. Parties in the political mainstream have become disgusted by the political exploitation of Hinduism and are united in fighting it. It is a trial of strength for the pro-Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which many regard as fascist. It made extraordinary advances in the general election in the middle of last year by fomenting Hindu-Muslim conflict. It controls the huge northern state of Uttar Pradesh, in which Ayodhya is situated and where a quarter of all Indian Muslims live.

On this occasion the conflict is not primarily a Hindu-Muslim one. It is a contest between extremist and moderate Hindus, with the character of Hinduism and of India's secularism at stake. The Muslims of northern India, emerging slowly from poverty and illiteracy, hope that victory for moderation will mark another stage in their struggle for equality and acceptance.

Kar sevaks (holy workers) have been marching for days towards Ayodhya to a cacophony of drums and conches. At least 30,000 are on the city outskirts, and a formidable paramilitary force awaits them. Lal Krishna Advani, the leader of the BJP, has been sending confused signals. First he said he would respect court orders protecting the mosque. Then he declared two days ago that the workers would go to Ayodhya with shovels. His changing stance reflects divisions among extremist Hindu organisations over tactics and timing.

Release of Cambodia UN troops predicted

BY DAVID WATTS AND JAMES PRINGLE

THE commanding general of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in Cambodia predicted yesterday that six of his men being held hostage by a Khmer Rouge commander would probably be released this morning.

General John Sanderson, an Australian, expressed optimism after a Khmer Rouge general ordered the immediate release of the three Britons, two Filipinos and a New Zealander. He said the order from General Nuon Bunno, the senior Khmer Rouge liaison officer in Phnom Penh, had probably reached the commander in Kompong Thom province, who seized the UN peacekeepers on Tuesday and accused them of spying for the Phnom Penh government.

Gen Sanderson said, however, he was concerned that the local commander might disobey the order. Khmer Rouge leaders had said the local commander was operating on his own and an earlier message informing him that taking UN hostages was against the group's policy had not secured their release.

The Khmer Rouge demand that Phnom Penh troops withdraw from the Kompong Thom area in exchange for the release of the hostages must be taken seriously since control of this province is the key to control of Cambodia. Chheng Am, the governor of the province, an important rice-growing area, said recently: "If the Khmer Rouge seize this province they can attack Phnom Penh and the provinces to the south and east. The whole of Cambodia would be open to them."

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Major rules out 'Balkan Storm' operation in Bosnia



Panic hopes to run for Serbian presidency

DIPLOMATS preparing the ground for the Yugoslav conference in Geneva on December 16 are working out ways in which limited military action against Serbia can be put on the agenda.

The verdict of most European and all Islamic states is that Serbia has been breaking the promises it made at the London peace conference in August and that some firmer ultimatum is required if the European Community is to save its face as a power broker in former Yugoslavia. The possibilities of diplomacy have not been exhausted, but it is plain that piecemeal negotiations are not working.

There is pressure, too, from the Islamic Conference Organisation, which this week urged much stronger United Nations action within 40 days. If that does not emerge, several Islamic states are committed to breaking the UN arms embargo and delivering weapons to the Muslims in Bosnia. Jim Hoagland, the influential American com-

The West's strategy of supporting Milan Panic to undermine Slobodan Milosevic has hit a rock, Roger Boyes writes



mentator, said in *The Washington Post* yesterday that intervention should not be based on "ease or guilt" but only on the basis of national interest. The Islamic states seem to be motivated mainly by guilt at the treatment of fellow Muslims, and by the fear that the Muslims of Europe, in Bosnia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Albania and even Bulgaria, may become a permanent source of instability.

The motives of the European power brokers are less clear. Why talk war when neither the diplomatic nor the military framework for such an operation is in place? Those closest to the negotiations, such as Cyrus Vance, are naturally still committed to

cluding Germany, Mr Panic's last port of call) he represents an escape route from the crisis.

Mr Milosevic, however, is still the likely winner of the election. He controls the Serbian media and the police machine, as well as having good contacts with those waging war in Bosnia. A clear sign of his power was evident yesterday when Mr Panic was denied the right to run for the presidency on a legal technicality. Mr Panic will appeal and the Serbian opposition will no doubt mobilise demonstrations in his support.

Mr Panic, a Serbian-American businessman, was declared by the electoral commission to be ineligible to run for the presidency because he had not been resident for a year. It rejected his claim that he had been resident since June 1991, noting that he had been registered as a foreigner until he became prime minister in July. Caslav Ignjatovic, head of the commission, said Mr Panic had 48 hours to lodge an appeal with the

Serbian Supreme Court, of which Mr Ignjatovic is also president.

If Mr Panic's disqualification is upheld the election could collapse. A poll without the opposition is unlikely to impress a large segment of the Serbian society, let alone the international community, as an exercise in democracy. In another development, senior military officials called on Mr Panic to suspend his work as federal defence minister during the election campaign. This seemed to indicate that Mr Panic does not have support within the military establishment, which he has been claiming.

Mr Panic was initially dismissed as a political lightweight when he was invited by President Cosic to become prime minister this summer. Since then he has proved to be immensely popular and has emerged as a serious threat to Mr Milosevic.

The issue of Mr Panic's candidacy was not the only topic on the agenda at a

meeting of opposition leaders last night. They claim that the names of many voters believed to be opposition supporters, have been illegally removed from the electoral rolls.

In the meantime, however, it is not clear which military options are immediately available to the Western peace brokers. Politicians can agree on the swift dispatch of UN observers to Macedonia and perhaps Kosovo to help prevent the spread of war southwards. But to make the appropriate warning noises to Serbia, something more formidable seems to be required. At present that appears to include two military measures that both carry some risk of deeper entanglement.

The first is to enforce the no-fly zone over Bosnia, which has been violated more than 100 times. The US seems prepared to contribute to such a mission. There are war-like implications in a rigidly enforced air exclusion zone. Serbian airfields could conceivably be bombed. Mr

Major, answering questions yesterday, was firmly opposed to spreading military operations beyond air policing. "We have no immediate plans to go further," he said, seeming to rule out any immediate prospect of a Balkan Storm-style offensive.

The second military step would be to extend the rules of engagement for UN troops in Bosnia. That would require some hard diplomacy at the UN. Russia, for one, is against any move that could transform the humanitarian mission in Bosnia into something more clearly anti-Serbian.

Both these limited measures fall well short of the demand for an all-out war against Serbia, but they put Serbia to the test and go some way towards reversing the image of European impotence in the Balkans. That, in the modest context of European peace brokering, could be counted a small success.

Additional reporting by Tim Judah in Belgrade

British troops fired on by Muslims and Serbs

FROM ADAM LEBOR IN VITEZ

BRITISH troops in Bosnia came under fire from opposing sides for the first time yesterday.

In separate incidents, the British United Nations contingent was targeted by artillery near the Serb frontline and Muslim gunmen appeared to aim automatic fire at soldiers outside their base in Vitez, north of Sarajevo.

Serb gunmen let loose a barrage of seven mortar and three artillery shells on a convoy of Warriors as they carried out a reconnaissance mission in the town of Turbe, early yesterday afternoon. One Warrior sustained minor damage, but no fire was returned. The shells landed between 20 and 200 yards away from the vehicles. The Serb artillery position was identified but it was more than a mile out of range of the cannon mounted on top of the Warriors.

This is not the first time that British troops have come under mortar fire, but the attack has serious implications. The devastated town of Turbe is a vitally important staging post on the road to Travnik. It is regularly bombed; if and when it falls to the Serbs, they will be poised to capture Travnik, a town of 70,000 close to Vitez where over 1,000 British soldiers are based. But yesterday, Turbe was quiet with the streets busy with pedestrians. The shelling had stopped until the British armoured vehicles appeared outside.

British neutrality in Bosnia makes the troops vulnerable to all sides. Their worst misgivings may be realised as they become more gunmen's targets than peacekeepers

The Serb attack on the Warriors illustrates the essential weakness of the presence of British and other UN forces in Bosnia — visible enough to be shot at, but lacking the authority under the UN's rules of engagement to fire back at the Serbs' long-range artillery in the hills.

The attack on the Warriors is a reversal of the recent trend where the British military presence, at least in nearby Travnik where Warriors have been making regular patrols, has helped reduce shelling. For the first time Serb gunmen are directly targeting British vehicles.

In the second incident, between five and 10 rounds of automatic gunfire were fired at a British troop carrier shortly after 1pm. "The carrier was passing our main base in Vitez and the shooting was an individual action," said a British officer.

At the same time, a convoy of aid trucks came under sustained machinegun fire near Vitez, and a British military rapid response team was immediately dispatched. Both these incidents took place within territory controlled jointly by Croat and Muslim forces.

About 30 rounds of medi-

um calibre machinegun fire were fired at the convoy, and the quick reaction team of soldiers was dispatched to find the source of the shooting, a British officer said. A further 50 rounds were fired from a second position, but the British soldiers were unable to locate it.

Ironically, yesterday was the first time British troops have fired their artillery. Two shells were accidentally discharged from a Warrior vehicle after a mechanical failure. Military sources said there was no evidence of any damage or casualties.

The attack on the troop carrier and the aid convoy is an illustration of the unpredictable nature of the Bosnian fighting forces. It is possible that the convoy was fired on for criminal, rather than political or military reasons — there is a thriving black market in this part of Bosnia — but this series of incidents shows the dangers the British UN contingent faces.

On the surface, towns such as Vitez are calm, with no shelling. The scene in the villages outside is pastoral and idyllic, green fields surrounding snow-capped mountains, and clear gushing brooks. But Serb forces are just a few miles away just down the road, and poised to strike.

Until now, the question has been how the British troops will respond if they are fired on by the Serbs. But yesterday's events showed that no question is that simple and one-sided here.

"Everyone keeps asking us about the Serbs," said one soldier. "But we are here to be entirely neutral, and it doesn't matter who is shooting at us. If someone fires at us while we carry out our duties, and we can identify where they are, we will fire back. We will find out their denomination when we bury them."

Conor Cruise O'Brien, page 20
Leading article and letters, page 21

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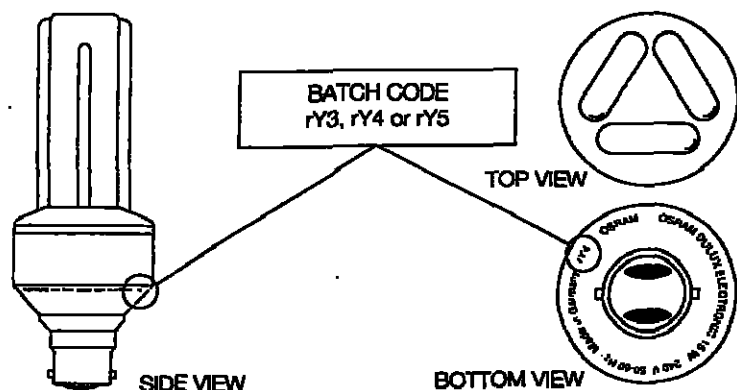
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Chocolate drop: a British soldier, part of the force protecting the UN aid convoy to Maglaj in Bosnia, giving a sweet treat to a four-year-old boy in Lijesnica

Why Whitehall fears commitment in a lengthy conflict it cannot afford

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

SEVEN months after fighting erupted in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Foreign Office and the defence ministry in London are probably wishing that they had opted to send troops to Somalia to protect food for the starving instead of having more than 2,000 soldiers struggling to deliver aid to the victims of the civil war in the former Yugoslavia.

As Washington made clear yesterday, the American relief effort in Somalia is intended to be a quick and decisive exercise, with the troops back by next month. Operation Grapple in Bosnia, on the other hand, threatens to be a protracted affair, with the risk of the soldiers being drawn into the war.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, appears to be leaning towards the apocalyptic view of the war spreading to Kosovo and Macedonia, bringing on other countries in the region such as Albania, Bulgaria, Turkey and Greece — a catastrophe in the making. Mr Hurd opposes military intervention but he is now questioning everything.

Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, is mindful of the fate of 2,400 British soldiers trying to deliver humanitarian aid and is also

unwilling to contemplate any offensive role for the troops. He continues to deploy the same arguments intervention would require 100,000 troops, many of whom would be British, and substantial casualties would be inevitable. General Sir Peter Inge, chief of the general staff, and Lieutenant General Sir Michael Wilkes, commander-in-chief UK land forces, Britain's most senior army officers, have visited Bosnia. Neither is likely to have returned to Whitehall with the opinion that British troops should be sent to Bosnia to sort out the Serbs.

Mr Rifkind's position, and that of his senior military advisers, is not based on moral or geopolitical grounds. They leave those considerations to the Foreign Office and No 10. The defence ministry argument against becoming embroiled in a war in Bosnia is based on practicalities: the size of the force required, the equipment needed, the expected length of the operation and the predicted level of casualties.

The figure of 100,000 troops produced by Mr Rifkind is not a precise calculation. It merely underlines the ministry view that an



Rifkind: reluctant to back offensive role

expeditionary force to Bosnia to take on the Serbs would need to be substantial. Half the 100,000 would be logistics and support, leaving about three divisions to fight.

Britain could only contribute to a force of that size if it were part of a multinational effort which would have to include the Americans. Yet even the sending of a full brigade with artillery, tanks, helicopters and back-up for a campaign which could be extended, would, at a stroke, destroy the government's *Options for Change* defence policy by which the army is to be cut by 40,000 by 1995. The British army of the 1990s is

supposed to be a measured army capable of giving measured responses. Fighting Serbs in a protracted war does not feature on the list of contingencies for the post-*Options* era.

However, if a decision were taken tomorrow to send a force to Bosnia, Britain would be able to respond. Even under *Options*, the army is to retain the full mix of capabilities necessary for high and low intensity wars. A conflict in Bosnia would quickly draw in a large percentage of Britain's military resources, especially if there were substantial casualties.

With such practical considerations in mind, let alone the question of long-term objectives and the implications for British defence policy, Mr Rifkind is unlikely to change his tune, however much anguish Mr Hurd may be feeling over the possible scenarios for a full-scale Balkan war. □ Bonn: Germany now accepts as confirmed reports of systematic mass rape of Muslim women by Serbs in Bosnia, a government spokesman said yesterday. Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, will demand at the Edinburgh summit next week that European ministers "take a clear and extremely strong stand on these atrocities".

UN risks losing Russian support on Serbia

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

President Yeltsin and Andrei Kozyrev, his foreign minister, have incurred huge political cost at home by following the Western line over the former Yugoslavia and taking part in sanctions against Serbia, a nation with historic links to Russia.

While the ordinary Russian is too preoccupied with economic survival to care about Yugoslavia, the cause of Serbia enjoys sympathy across the political spectrum, including the neo-fascists of the Pamyat movement.

Hence any move by the West for even tougher security council action against Serbia, or for outright military intervention, would run a strong risk of straining Moscow's loyalty to its new-found Western friends to breaking point. Russia has already shown signs of embarrassment over the present line from the UN Security Council: officials have repeatedly suggested that sanctions against Serbia could be eased if Belgrade were to alter its policy.

One matter on which Russia has stood firm is in its opposition to any suggestion of expelling Yugoslavia from the United Nations. If, as seems likely, the Congress of People's Deputies forces the government to modify its pro-Western foreign policy line, one of the first results would be a tilt away from hostility towards Serbia in favour of something like benign neutrality.

Vladimir Lukin, the Russian ambassador to Washington, who is seen by some "centrists" as a better candidate for foreign minister than Mr Kozyrev, would almost certainly take a more understanding attitude towards Serbia if he got the job.

From Mr Kozyrev's point of view, the advent of Milan Panic has been a godsend. It has enabled him to argue that Serbia does have an acceptable face and that UN sanctions are directed at the behaviour of Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian president, and not the Serbian people.

Last month, Vitali Churkin, Mr Kozyrev's deputy, cast all niceties about non-interference aside when he issued a strong statement of concern for the political survival of Mr Panic. However, Mr Kozyrev's clear support for Mr Panic over Mr Milosevic could change if the broader balance of power in Moscow shifts towards the Russian nationalist camp.

The same applies to Moscow's attitude to the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia. While Mr Kozyrev has recognized the Skopje authorities under the name of Macedonia, his critics have shown more sympathy for Greece's insistence that it has an historic monopoly on the right to that name.

Russian Congress, page 14

THE TIMES FRIDAY DEC
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Amendments to the UN Charter are deter
mined by the Security Council.

THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK

...the UN Secretary-General, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, said yesterday that the UN was not in a position to take any action against Serbia until it had been established that the UN had the authority to do so. He said that the UN was not in a position to take any action against Serbia until it had been established that the UN had the authority to do so. He said that the UN was not in a position to take any action against Serbia until it had been established that the UN had the authority to do so.

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UN wants firm grip on American-led forces in Somalia

■ Non-aligned nations are determined not to allow Washington the same freedom in Somalia that it had to prosecute the Gulf war

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK AND SAM KILEY IN MOGADISHU

THE security council resolution which authorises military intervention in Somalia by an American-led force provides for much greater United Nations oversight than during the Gulf war.

The resolution, due to be adopted last night, grants members of the US-led coalition the same permission to use "all necessary means" to achieve its objective of protecting aid supplies to Somalia, suffering from drought and civil war, as allied forces were given in their effort to expel President Saddam Hussein's troops from Kuwait. But this time non-aligned council members, who felt Washington was given too free a hand against Iraq, have inserted language designed to rein in the planned American-led force in Somalia.

The resolution requires members of the coalition force and Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, to set up "appropriate mechanisms" for co-ordination between the UN and the

intervention force. The text also stipulates that the security council will send an ad hoc commission to Somalia to report on implementation of the resolution and asks the secretary-general to attach a liaison staff to the field headquarters of the operation.

On the question of who will determine when the multinational force has achieved its objective, the resolution asks Dr Boutros Ghali to declare when "a secure environment" has been established and normal UN peacekeeping operations can resume. Comparing the terms of the Somalia deployment with that of the Gulf war, Paul Noterdaeme, the Belgian ambassador to the UN, said: "The role of the secretary-general is much more important. The role of the security council is much upgraded."

Washington sources said last night that the force would be led by Lieutenant General Robert Johnston of the Marine Corps. He was General Norman Schwarzkopf's chief of staff during the Gulf war. The first US troops could land in Somalia today from a task force of 1,800 US Marines aboard three amphibious assault ships.

In Mogadishu, the Somali capital, General Muhammad Farrah Aidid, the dominant warlord, flooded the city yesterday with leaflets proclaiming "USA is friend" and "USA was saxaab" (Welcome USA). The propaganda may be unnecessary. A newspaper drawing shows a civilian asking a mad-eyed teenage gunman sitting on a Jeep mounted with a four-barrel anti-aircraft gun

(known locally as a "technical") what he thinks about the arrival of the Americans. "Great," the youth says. "The Americans will drive up the price to \$500 a day for a technical."

Like many real-life gangsters in the city, the youth was convinced that just as the arrival of unarmed UN observers and later 500 Pakistani "blue helmets" meant that they were able to find work as bodyguards (at \$200 a day per technical), so American soldiers will need protecting from their fellow hoods.

In Paris, President Mitterrand's office announced that France would send a military force to Somalia. *Libération* reported that France was preparing to contribute 2,000 troops.



Out of reach: a woman pedestrian stepping briskly beyond the clutches of a giant painted hand, which adorns hoardings that cover a vacant shop in the commercial district of Cincinnati, Ohio

Bentsen is tipped for treasury

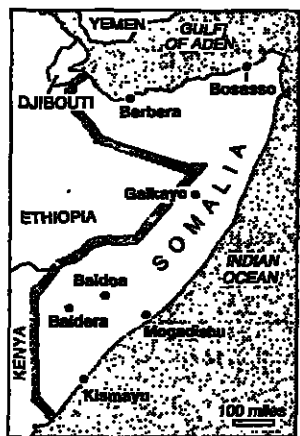
FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

BILL Clinton, the American president-elect, is expected to announce his Cabinet appointments soon, and Lloyd Bentsen, 71, the chairman of the Senate finance committee, is widely tipped for the post of treasury secretary.

First elected to Congress in 1948, Mr Bentsen knows as well as anyone how to have legislation enacted on Capitol Hill. He is a steady moderate who would not alarm the financial markets.

There are two factors that could persuade Mr Clinton to keep Mr Bentsen, the Democrats' 1988 vice-presidential candidate, where he is. Texas Democrats are worried that a Republican could win his Senate seat in a by-election, and he would be replaced on the finance committee by Patrick Moynihan, who is considered in Washington as less dependable and less politically astute.

Mr Bentsen's main rival is believed to be Robert Rubin, co-chairman of Goldman Sachs, the New York investment banking firm, who advised Mr Clinton during the election campaign.



Black militants widen rift with Pretoria

FROM MICHAEL HAMILYN IN JOHANNESBURG

A GROWING bitterness between the South African government and militants of the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) is threatening efforts to reopen multiparty talks aimed at bringing an orderly end to white rule.

The hostility between the two sides has ended a period in which they were apparently edging closer after the intervention of President Mugabe of Zimbabwe. A meeting which was to have taken place next Wednesday has been called off because of the attack on a golf club in King William's Town in the eastern Cape at the weekend. The Azanian People's Liberation Army, the PAC's armed wing, has claimed responsibility.

Another event jeopardising a renewal of constitutional talks is the startling demarche by Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the KwaZulu leader and president of the mainly Zulu Inkatha Freedom Party, who has unilaterally launched a new federal constitution.

Yesterday, Clarence Makwetu, the PAC president, said that the reward of 50,000

rand (£11,000) offered after the golf club killing of four whites "just shows that the life of a black man is valueless". Mr Makwetu said that he was also unhappy about the performance of the United Nations monitors in South Africa, who he said were just collecting statistics on how many black people die each day.

Mr Makwetu was adamant that the commission of enquiry into violence and intimidation under Mr Justice Richard Goldstone would not be allowed to investigate the Azanian people's army. The UN has insisted that the commission should examine the SA Defence Force, the police, and the armies of the liberation movements such as Umkhonto we Sizwe, the ANC's armed wing, and the Azanian people's army.

President de Klerk was stung by Chief Buthelezi's launch of a unilateral constitution and issued a statement saying it would increase instability. Chief Buthelezi said yesterday he was pressing ahead with plans for a Natal referendum on his proposals.

Lennon killer's demons 'purged'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

THE man who murdered John Lennon believes he has "exorcised the demons" which he says drove him to kill the former Beatle 12 years ago.

Mark David Chapman, 37, who was sentenced to a term of twenty years to life for killing Lennon, told Barbara Walters of ABC television in an interview broadcast today that he did not think he was killing a real person when he shot the musician outside his New York home.

"Please understand Yoko," he said, addressing Yoko Ono, Lennon's widow, in the first television interview he has given. "I killed an image. I killed an album cover... There's now enough pain in the world and I caused a Titanic's worth overnight with some stupid thing."

Chapman, who will be eligible for parole in eight years, said he was possessed at the time of the murder, but that his "de-

mons" had been exorcised by a priest outside Africa prison in New York where he is held.

"This was real," he said of the exorcism, "and when those things came out of me I could feel them. I could feel them when they came out of my mouth."

Chapman expressed admiration for the doorman at the Dakota building where Lennon lived, who wrestled the gun away from him, and he also offered his regrets to Yoko Ono.

"I took away a genius," he said, "I don't expect them to forgive me. I'm not asking that. But I am sorry. I mean that."

A psychiatrist diagnosed Chapman as exhibiting "the symptoms of virtually every malady in psychiatric literature", but said that in spite of prolonged drug use, he was "keenly aware of the daily realities by which mental health is gauged".

Fame and fortune, page 20

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مكتبة لادبي

Love me, love my presents

What madness drives parents to sleep overnight in car parks at a child's whim? Libby Purves reports

We all know how they fight over toys. They get carried away by crazes and all rush for the same thing, shoving and bursting into tears when another one grabs it first. There's always one a bit taller and greedier than the rest, who seizes three and refuses to share. In the end, you have to make them queue up and take turns. It's part of their education, really.

I refer, of course, to parents. For the past month, remarkable and desperate scenes have been enacted outside big multiple toyshops at dawn, with crowds of up to 200 hopeful parents gathering silently from 1am, like a Moscow food queue. After a particularly undisciplined stampede for aisle 301 on the first weekend, Jeremy Tucker — the manager of the Ipswich branch of Toys 'R' Us — invented a ticket system which

This is more complicated, deeper and dafter, than just giving a child a toy

has now been adopted by the whole of the chain. "People were running in quite fast when we opened the doors, and we worried about accidents. Now we go out very early to the queue and give the first 20 or 30 a raffle ticket, according to how many units we've had delivered. And the duty manager opens the outer doors at 7am to let people stand in the warm."

"It's much better that way," agrees my own brother, a veteran of three icy dawnings on behalf of his four-year-old. "At least with the tickets you know when you've no hope, so you go home. On the big rush day I saw one large couple with three of the things, and said 'Oy, you're well above your ration!' They just stared and said that their children had to have one each. That's a hundred quids-worth. We're all crazy."

The toy in shortage this Christmas is a large lump of moulded plastic with hangers and a launching ramp, entitled *Thunderbirds* Tracy Island. It — and the diecast vehicles which go with it — are spinoffs from the mysteriously popular re-runs of the jerky 1960s puppet series, and every toyshop and wholesaler in Britain is currently cursing the new American owners of the Matchbox company for failing to meet promised supply targets. Already there are wild urban myths forming about the

moulds being lost in Macao, or shipwrecked in the South China Seas, or captured by interior tribes. In the trade there are equally dark — if unsubstantiated — mutterings about supplies having been diverted to Germany to earn Deutschmarks.

But it doesn't matter what toy it is or why. The industry lives by unpredictable crazes, and as Paul Caspari, the chairman of the London toy wholesalers Robenau, says simply: "There's always something."

In his 40 years' experience, he has seen many of these pre-Christmas panics when one particular toy becomes suddenly so essential that adults lose all sense of proportion. Speaking as a working mother who once scoured London, in tears, for a dreadful rubber object called a Boglin, I can confirm that after a

while this search has little to do with the actual wishes of your actual child, who might well prefer to have you home, relaxed, and wait a month or so for the Boglin. It is more complicated, deeper and dafter, and more primitive than merely giving a child a toy. Especially, perhaps, in men. Having also suffered abrasions and trampled feet in Colchester while wrestling for plastic turtles against hard-faced Essex men in camouflage jackets, I can confirm that quite a lot of it is about naked competitiveness. The majority of the *Thunderbird* queue, Mr Tucker confirms, are indeed daddies. Man the hunter, balked of the ability to kill a mammoth for his little ones, uses his elbows instead.

If Mr Caspari ever writes the *Memoirs of a Toy Wholesaler*, his shortage stories are guaranteed to hit a nerve with anyone who has been a child or a parent in the last four decades. "Turtles and Transformers were the most recent," he says. "But going way back, do you remember the One Man Army? Now that was a huge lump of plastic with six or seven functions. It was the first of the big lumps of plastic. I sent three vans out late on Christmas eve with those." He warms to his theme like an old warrior. "We sweated over that! And do you remember Potato Head? We were in dead trouble



On the front line: parents set up camp on the pavement at Toys 'R' Us in Ipswich, hoping to get their hands on one of this year's top toys, *Thunderbirds* Tracy Island

It is 6.00am on Sunday: a raw morning under the sodium lights in the Ipswich Toys 'R' Us car park. Up at the front of the *Thunderbirds* Tracy Island queue, under a vast fishing umbrella, Brian Fisher and Simon Wail from Norfolk crack endless jokes. "I'm here for a Sindy doll, actually," Mr Fisher says. "We got here at six in the evening. Quite a good night, actually." Mr Wail says toughly. "I don't mind sleeping out." "Ooh!" a nearby woman erupts from her muffler in indignation. "He's been taking turns with his wife, sleeping shifts in the car!"

Robert Pearson had arrived at 10pm. "Last time I did this was the 1978 Cup Final. Are we mad?" His son is five. Most of the queue seem to have children under seven. "They're too young to disappoint, aren't they? They'll find out about real life soon enough." The Browns, from Acle, in Norfolk, have a son of seven. "He's only asked for two things. The Lego, was easier." They have been there since midnight.

Queuing by numbers

Most of the 60-strong queue have tried before. Number 16 is last week's 24th in line (23 of the toys arrived). A quiet, educated but shy man ("Please just call me Number 14") has been keeping an overnight journal and hands it to me. It reads: "10.50pm. Number 12 has just opened the first of many bottles of home-made wine. Feeling sorry for 13, lent him my gloves."

violent father. "He thinks I don't remember — I do. He only comes round when there is something wrong with his car."

Yes, some kind of group therapy has been going on here. Sue Bakerman and Jill Frisdon from Felixstowe, tucked up side by side, smile happily in the bitter dawn. "We two didn't know each other until last night, but we've been talking all night about how much we love our children and how wonderful they are. It's lovely."

At eight o'clock the manager arrived and opened the outer doors. Yawning and shivering, the crowd filed in. Half-an-hour later the harsh message arrived "22 toys only". Not a groan was heard from that stoical column. "See you next week, then!" says my neighbour, Number 53. Perhaps.

"The Palace wanted it all ways. It always has"

There can't be too many people who, within less than a month, have been presented with pretty devastating evidence of affairs by both the Duchess of York and the Prince of Wales.

One was pictorial, the other aural. Both were knock-out blows to the royals' carefully nurtured public image of the exemplary British family, a closely knit unit protecting the values that we all hold dear.

For nine years Michael Shea, as press secretary to the Queen, was Keeper of the Unvarnished Image; he must consider himself lucky he left in 1987 before the real problems started. Yet his series in *The Times* over the past three days has been breathtaking in its arrogance, puerile in its generalisations and so blind to reality that it's surprising he has not put in for his old job back.

Broadly speaking, his thesis is this: the royal family do a good job, but "the tabloids" — whatever he means by that — in the non-stop pursuit of circulation have lied, lied and lied again about it. Any problems that have arisen have been because of intrusive coverage by newspapers.

Now let's have the alternative scenario. By the end of the 1970s the royal family had become boring and was teetering on the irrelevant to such an extent that when the Queen went on one of her full-scale foreign tours not a single press or television representative went with her. Not to put too fine a point on it, they were dying on their feet.

Richard Stott, a former editor of the *Daily Mirror* and *The People*, responds to Michael Shea's attack on the tabloid press

up by newspapers. You can't be the world's No 1 cover girl without all the hullabaloo that goes with it.

The Palace led I suspect by Prince Philip, who somehow got left behind at the Festival of Britain in 1951, wanted it all ways. It always has. But this time it had unleashed too potent a force. Everyone wanted to know everything about the Princess of Wales — and, trapped as she was by now in an uncaring and loveless marriage, there was one hell of a lot to know.

Yet not one of those prattling yes-men who pass as "courtiers" had the nous or the guts to tell the Queen what she should have heard: that her family was heading full tilt towards disaster, that her two older sons were ill-equipped to deal with the modern world and that her own performance in the latest of the Palace "at homes" was at the least a puzzling anachronism to anyone under the age of 40 and at worst an embarrassing portrait of an elderly woman hopelessly out of touch with the real problems of a real world.

How out of touch did not become clear until this summer, when the dam finally burst. Andrew Morton's book suggested that the Wales marriage was in a shocking state and too many people for comfort were left wondering how a young girl could be brought into the royal family at the age of 19 and be expected to live such a bizarre existence, so devoid of affection, for the rest of her life. This wasn't helped by her suspicions about Camilla Parker Bowles' relationship with her husband.



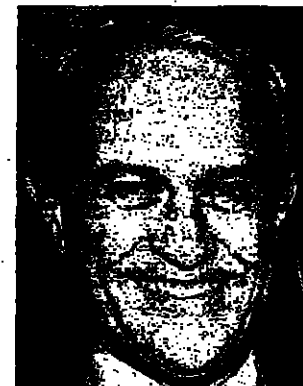
Stott: Palace yes-men are blind to reality

And why should we tolerate John Bryan, a jumped-up American playboy, giving off-the-record briefings about how the Duke and Duchess of York were getting back together again if only we could give them a little time and breathing space? In fact, as we all know, it turned out there was precious little breathing space

of the Prince of Wales's conversation with Mrs Parker Bowles have produced virtually no complaint at all, much to the chagrin of the Palace.

Mr Shea says the *Mirror* and *The Sun* have chased each other from the gutter to the sewer and back. Really? It would be an interesting exercise to go back through the stories in both papers over the years and compare them with the statements and off-the-record briefings by Bucking-

Do you want the truth as told by the *Daily Mirror* or the carefully crafted image of the Michael Sheas of this world?



Shea: berates 'sewer' press

ham Palace's press representatives, and indeed by members of the royal family.

Undoubtedly there have been stories which have been wrong or excessive — but the main thrust of the Princess of Wales's unhappiness, her health problems and her hopeless marriage have been true, in spite of the many denials from the smooth-talking PR gloss of the likes of Mr Shea. The same goes for the marriage débacle of the

That was done by members of the public, activated by curiosity, spite, greed, malevolence and plain mischief-making. It has always been thus. The Profumo scandal was triggered by a ponce and a stolen letter, the Lambton scandal by the husband of a whore out to make money. The provenance of such murky stories is inevitably going to be from the bottom end of journalistic contacts. I have yet to hear of such worldly tales of the flesh emanating from the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Journalists cannot "unknow" what they are told. They can ignore such sensitive information, pretend it never existed, censor it or suppress it because it is too uncomfortable to reveal the shortcomings of the rich and powerful. That way lie supine, subjected newspapers with editors doing what they are told for an easy life. After all, we're in it together aren't we? Come to the club and have a knight-hood on us.

Then whose sewer are we in?

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JERSEY EUROPEAN

Statistics reveal nothing: to find out what goes on between the sheets turn to Pepys not the pollsters, writes Matthew d'Ancona

Charting the hidden secrets of sex

So it's official: London is the gay capital city of the Nineties. Britons are mostly monogamous, and professional men have more sex than their working-class counterparts. Such, at least, are the conclusions drawn in the grand £1 million survey of British sexual behaviour published yesterday. The statisticians have once again broken into the bedroom, clipboard and calculator at the ready, to turn our sex lives into pie graphs and bar charts.

From this sexual census of 18,876 men and women has emerged an intriguing profile of the nation's nocturnal practices, a Domesday Book of the post-permissive society. We now know, for instance, that only 6 per cent of British men have had a homosexual experience but that the figure is twice as high in Greater London.

Ever since the 1948 Kinsey Report shocked suburbia out of its Victorian presumptions, the world has been obsessed by such surveys.

But can raw statistics ever tell us very much about the passion and inner life of the lover?

Take the diary of Samuel Pepys: one moment, he is at an evening service in St Dunstan's, lusting after a "pretty, modest maid" who "would not, but got further and further from me; and, at last, I could perceive her to take pins out of her pocket to prick me". The next, he is punishing himself in hieroglyphic script for his "wickedness", his "vileness". These are the true nuances of sexual behaviour, the strange brew of prudence and prudishness the computer print-out can never explain.

In any case, polls, as the general election result revealed, say as much about the extent of hypocrisy as they do about opinion and

behaviour. Their confidentiality is misleading: people seem to regard their responses to questions like "have you been HIV tested?" or "will you vote Labour?" as a semi-public act and therefore say what they think they ought to rather than what they mean. Whatever psephologists say, polling aids and abets repression.

Sexual surveys also bring out the worst in those that answer them. Shere Hite's massive tome on male sexuality, published in 1981, five years after the companion volume on female sexuality, reads like an extended group therapy session conducted by over-demonstrative Californians. Fascinating as it is, the Hite report on men will probably make a greater contribution to future histories of exhibition-

ism than it has to current sexual knowledge.

Sexual history is now a serious business, thanks in part to the work of Michel Foucault whose mammoth, uncompleted work on human sexuality, treated its subject as a language, a discourse worthy of complex analysis. Statistics doubtless have a role to play in this revitalised academic subject. But they tell only part of the story.

Yesterday's survey reveals, for instance, the extent of public anxiety about AIDS: one in seven have already been tested for the HIV virus. Such figures encourage the view that the disease and the world's response to it are unique in human history. Yet, as Elaine Showalter has shown in her mas-

terly book *Sexual Anarchy*, syphilis played a uncannily similar role in the culture of the late 19th century. As the disease raged across Europe, the Vatican fought identical battles over the use of condoms, while moralists used the disease as an excuse to preach chastity. "If humankind returned to the golden age," argued one French campaigner against prostitution, "the days of syphilis would be numbered". Such is the response of each *fin de siècle* to its sexual demons, the cultural baggage to which numerical analysis is blind.

In the interests of bland generalisation, statistics suppress that which is truly interesting in sexual behaviour: the intimate, the eccentric and the anecdotal. Thus historians have found medieval

confessional manuals, like Thomas Chobham's interminable *Summa Confessorum*, to be a rich seam of information on the sexual practices of the English in the Middle Ages. Bestiality, for example, was evidently common enough among 13th-century sinners to warrant its own section for the confessor's consideration: the usual penance was a vegetarian diet.

Likewise, one learns more about 18th-century sex from Boswell's writing — his boasts that he could make love five times a night and caught gonorrhoea 17 times — than from any number of population histories. And how could one slim down Casanova's 12-volume *Histoire de sa vie* down to a table of figures (other than to mention that he made love to 150 women,

including 24 servants, 31 virgins, 18 aristocrats and two nuns)? And how would statistics deal with the rumour sweeping literary London this week that 200 allegedly lesbian letters between Daphne du Maurier and Gertrude Lawrence are about to be published?

The trouble is that sex, which used to be an art, is being steadily reduced to a science. This year's crop of video and newspaper guides to sexual technique have made the good old *Joy of Sex* seem quite amateurish, even in updated form. From January, ITV will bring instruction to the masses in its Monday night *Good Sex Guide*. Etiquette and discretion have been replaced by an information glut. Ever more ambitious surveys will follow yesterday's report, each brimming with comparative information on intimate practices in the European Community and the wider world. Prepare to learn everything you never wanted to know about sex.

Mad, bad and lucrative to know

Ben Macintyre, in New York, on the lasting profits of fleeting fame

Eighteen-year-old Amy Fisher's flirtation with fame reached its dramatic peak on Tuesday when a New York judge sentenced her to between five and 15 years in prison.

The story of the "Long Island Lolita" began not when the photogenic teenager with the long, purple-dyed tresses knocked at the door of the Long Island home of an older man, Joey Buttafuoco, with whom she claimed to be having an affair and put a bullet into his wife's head; it started, for most practical purposes, after Ms Fisher had been arrested. Detective sergeant Daniel

Severin of the New York police was fumbling to articulate for reporters what had happened: the Fisher-Buttafuoco case, he said, was "near Fatal-Attraction".

Even before Amy Fisher was sentenced a film of her life was being made. More are in production

The effect of that reference to the 1987 film starring Michael Douglas and Glenn Close which earned some \$300 million, was electric. Entertainment lawyers began circling in droves. Amy Fisher's lawyer (a self-

confessed would-be actor and former salesman of vibrating beds) gave the story just enough spin by describing Joey Buttafuoco as a pimp who had helped to turn his client into a schoolgirl-call girl who wore her bleeper to class to keep in touch with clients.

The exact figures have yet to be worked out, but Amy Fisher is reported to have made some \$200,000 from various film deals: the Buttafuocos have made between \$200,000 and \$300,000. So far, Amy Fisher's 15 minutes of fame have flashed by, earning her some \$13,333 a minute. Even before she was sentenced, a television film of her life was being filmed in Vancouver and there are two more in production. A paperback of the "Teen-Attraction" case is sure to be a Christmas bestseller and when she finally emerges from jail, Amy Fisher will be given pride of place on the lecture and chat-show circuit.

Her case has long been described by the New York media as a morality play and so, in a way, it is. But the important moral issue does not concern Amy, Joey or his still partially-paralysed wife Mary Jo, who were only ever rather sad, tiresome and greedy people, but the extraordinary morality, or lack of it, that governs the manufacture of American fame and entertainment.

Something called "near-reality"

suspension of disbelief they require (which is actually great fun) but the complete avoidance of any kind of value judgment. A programme called *True Stories* this week showed footage of a man trying to hijack a car and being arrested by some eight policemen, an event which apparently took place about six months ago. Not only were all the police interviewed, but so was the "car-jacker" in the cell where he is now serving a substantial sentence. "I thought I'd get away with it," he grinned. He was happy, a celebrity without remorse, leaving one with the distinct impression that if he knew he would be filmed for prime-time television the next time, he would certainly do it again.

A senior vice president at CBS recently offered the following rationale for making fame out of infamy: "Hopefully, from these kind of stories, viewers will gain insight, and I hope — and this will sound naive — that these movies will explain events that could have been prevented had someone stopped them before they went too far."

That doesn't sound naive, it sounds wrong. The only genuine insight viewers can gain from watching "Amy Fisher — The Movie" is into the strange pact that the American entertainment industry encourages between a criminal and his crime.

Conor Cruise O'Brien warns against intervention in an increasingly desperate civil war



Avoid Bosnia's bloody trap

Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, is right to resist the mounting pressure towards expanded military intervention in former Yugoslavia. That pressure increased somewhat this week with the ultimatum of the Islamic countries to the United Nations to come to the rescue of the Bosnian Muslims by mid-January, failing which the Islamic countries will take some unspecified action, which is assumed to be the breaking of the UN arms embargo.

The Islamic threat is not altogether credible. The most serious pressure towards expanded military intervention is coming from the United States. Bill Clinton, during the election campaign, committed himself to such intervention (stopping short of sending in American ground troops). An influential section of the American media, headed by *The New York Times*, is now trying to hold the president-elect to this commitment.

What American interventionists have in mind was spelt out with unusual clarity in an article published last week. The article is by George Kenney, a consultant to the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and Michael J. Dugan, a retired US Air Force general and former chief of staff.

Entitled "How an Allied Coalition Could Beat Serbia" it was originally contributed to *The New York Times* and appeared in the *International Herald Tribune* last Monday. The coalition is to be an *ad hoc* one, consisting of the US, Britain, France and Italy. The intervention is to be in three stages, culminating in active belligerency in two phases — "first, destroying Serbian forces in Bosnia, and second, using concentrated force against Serbia itself."

The Kenney-Dugan plan fits Mr Clinton's campaign specification, in that it does not require the use of American ground troops. But it does require the use of some ground troops, and these are to be supplied by America's allies. Kenney-Dugan write: "Three allies, Britain, France and Italy, must be included: they provide staging bases and a limited number of air, naval and ground forces which support a US dominated air power operation."

This division of labour would, quite understandably, meet with widespread popularity in the United States. Whether it would be equally popular with the British, French and Italian publics is another matter. Mr Clinton, when he becomes president, may have the sense not to go along with the

interventionist policies outlined on the campaign trail. But if he does follow through on them America's European allies are liable to be pressurised, along Kenney-Dugan lines, and the Western Alliance will be subject to unprecedented strains. Americans favouring intervention against Serbia have reached a dangerously high pitch of moral fervour. Serbia is seen as an international aggressor, just like Saddam Hussein or Adolf Hitler. To fail to stop Serbia would therefore invite the most horrendous consequences, not merely for Yugoslavia but for the whole world; so it is stridently argued.

In reality, the struggle in Yugoslavia is a civil war, and the struggle in Bosnia is a civil war within a civil war. The civil war in Yugoslavia, like the American Civil War, had its origins in the determination of some states to secede from a federation, and the determination of other states to uphold the federation by force. (I do not mean to claim by this comparison that Slobodan Milosevic is a moral clone of Abraham Lincoln, though I have no doubt that a few readers will regard such a claim as implicit in the comparison.)

Civil wars are no less ghastly than international wars, and in some ways they are even more ghastly

because of the intimacy within the hate and cruelty. But, ghastly though it is, a civil war does not call for the same international response as does an act of international aggression.

An act of international aggression — such as Mussolini's invasion of Abyssinia or Saddam's annexation of Kuwait — requires a concerted international response, because of the precedent it sets for further acts of international aggression. Thus the failure of the League of Nations, led by Britain and France, to respond adequately to Mussolini's invasion of Abyssinia was the first in the chain of events that led to the Second World War.

An act of international aggression, if persisted in, requires international military intervention. A civil war does not. It is argued, however, that because the European Community and some other countries recognised Bosnia last April as an independent sovereign state, what is happening there is not a civil war. This is pushing juridical pedantry to the verge of fantasy. The inhabitants of Bosnia are fighting one another, and some of them are abetted by their ethnic brothers in other parts of former Yugoslavia, Serbs by Serbs and

Croats by Croats. This is deplorable but inevitable. Similar things are happening in different parts of the former Soviet Union and these conflicts are also in many cases, technically "international" conflicts. Nobody that I know of is preaching military intervention against, say Azerbaijan. What is happening in the former Soviet Union is rightly seen not as a number of cases of international aggression, but as cases of civil convulsion, following the breakup of a multinational federation. The fighting in former Yugoslavia should be seen in exactly the same light.

The use of international force in former Yugoslavia should be confined to what is strictly required for the protection of humanitarian aid convoys (as also in Somalia). To attempt to "liberate independent Bosnia" by force would only inflict still greater misery on all the people there, while taking a heavy toll also of the invading forces, who would have to spend a long time there, under grim conditions and with, in the end, no good result. Under the Kenney-Dugan scenario, those forces would be European, as would the resulting body-bags. As I say, Malcolm Rifkind is right to resist the trend that would take us to that calamitous conclusion.

A Tebbit in the tank

WHILE the rest of the world debates the pros and cons of intervening in the war in Yugoslavia, British troops, who are part of the United Nations peace-keeping force, have already been armed with a secret weapon: a photograph of the Chingford skinhead.

Lord Tebbit's fearsome countenance is staring out at the warring factions from a tank with the Royal Engineers in Split. It is reputedly striking fear into the hearts of all who see it.

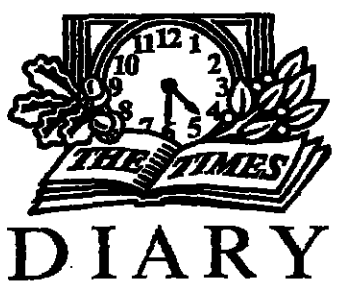
The idea came from a sapper, who cannot be named for security reasons. He had already seen the secret weapon in action, having written to Tebbit asking for a photograph to bolster the morale of the troops when he was with Operation Desert Storm. A few months after the end of the Iraq war, Tebbit heard from the same sapper, who had been posted to Northern Ireland. Pictures were dispatched on both occasions.

This week Tebbit's secretary opened a third letter from the same sapper. "I hope you recognise the name and number. At present we are on the UN tour for six months," wrote the sapper, who addressed Tebbit as an MP.

The former minister wrote back without delay. "Since we last corresponded I have left the House of Commons and have been elevated to the Upper House. I am sending you an up-market photograph of the day of my elevation to the House of Lords. I hope it will bring you luck and a safe return home."

Lord Tebbit, whose verbal bombardments of the Labour front benches made him one of the most feared and respected government performers during his time in the Commons, is flattered to think that his fighting reputation has spread so far. "I really have been immensely touched at the faith and the interest which these brave boys have shown in me," he says. "I wish them every success."

Rosemary Lamont may have to rattle the charity tin again in the wake of the Royal Bank of Scotland's disastrous 64 per cent slump in profits. The bank, which has a bad debt provision of £400 million, confirmed that it will be looking long and hard at the overdraft facility it has extended to the Conservative party, whose deficit stands at £17.5 million. A spokesman for the bank, whose



chairman is the former Tory cabinet minister Lord Younger, says: "Every bank is looking at every customer with an overdraft of that scale. These are difficult times. Most of us have been up to our eyes in intensive care unit."

Judging by the moans emanating from the staff at Conservative Central Office, many of whom may lose their jobs, intensive care may not be enough. A Lazarus-style operation is called for.

Poor show

WHILE there will be no shortage of Tory politicians swanning around Edinburgh for the Euro-summit next weekend, they will be thin on the ground at the three-day Poverty Summit hosted by Edinburgh University next week. The Labour party is fielding half

a dozen of its MPs and MEPs, including Donald Dewar, Nigel Griffiths, David Martin, Ken Coates and Glyn Ford. The Liberal Democrats are hoping to field Sir David Steel. Winnie Ewing is expected to represent the SNP but the Tory party cannot come up with a single candidate.

All of which puts the organisers in a delicate position, since they want to avoid any accusations of political bias. Dr Ann Fink, one of the organisers, cannot understand the Tory boycott. "They may be frightened because of what we are going to discuss, which is sad, because the issue of poverty is central to the future of Britain and Europe."

Conservative Central Office did not want to comment on why no Tories have accepted, but said the presence of pressure groups might have frightened them off. "People like War on Want might not be very friendly to Tory ministers. It is not that they are not concerned, but you can understand why they might not want to come."

In desperation Fink telephoned Sir Edward Heath's office and asked his secretary to think of another Conservative with pro-European and socially committed views. "The secretary considered the problem and suggested Lord Callaghan."



Guard duty

Having disappeared from the Duke of Windsor's Paris home, the Waterloo Figure, left, has unexpectedly turned up. The valuable 2ft silver-plated statue of a Grenadier guard was modelled by Sir Joseph Edgar Böhm. In the plinth is set a silver medal struck in 1815 to commemorate the battle. The figure was recently sold to Mohamed Fayed, who bought the contents of the Windsor home after the duchess's death. Unveiled in Harrods for the first time last night, the statue will be returned to Paris this week.

Michael Howard was amazed to read of his hard-hitting speech when opening a water treatment works at Thames Water earlier this week. According to some newspapers, his attack on water company chairmen awarding themselves excessive pay rises left Thames Water officials "cringing with embarrassment". Howard's officials in London had released the speech, but their boss, for reasons of his own, gave an entirely different one.

Long brew

WHEN Geoffrey Palmer celebrated his appointment as Scotland's first black professor this week there

was not a champagne bottle in sight. Pints of bitter were the order of the day.

Palmer, who arrived in Britain on a banana boat from Jamaica almost 40 years ago, is to become professor at the International Centre for Brewing and Distilling at Edinburgh's Heriot Watt university. After grammar school and university, his career hit a stumbling block. He was turned down for a job in education by Lord Joseph.

Palmer's *faux pas* was not being able to tell the difference between a wheat and a barley field. "I told Keith Joseph it was a bit difficult coming from Jamaica and living in north London. I had never seen either."

Outstanding in his field





RIGHTS OF MINORITIES

Group rights must not diminish individual human rights

The United Nations was set up to ensure that dictatorship never again threatened world peace. For nations liberated from Nazi tyranny the protection of individual human rights was an essential element of respect for the rule of law. Gradually, the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its 1966 covenants have become accepted legal bases for limiting the sovereign rights of a state to abuse its citizens. With the end of the Cold War, Soviet and Third World governmental efforts to dilute this principle through the advocacy of "people's rights" have subsided. Never has there been such a high degree of consensus on the primacy of individual rights.

Conflicts still arise, as in Somalia, from struggles against oppressive regimes. But others stem from the grievances, real or imagined, of a minority against a government intent on enforcing only the wishes of the majority. The question is whether minority rights are best protected by the full observance of the rights of the individuals who form the minority, or whether there are certain kinds of collective rights, such as the right to use a minority language, which require special protection.

First proposed by Yugoslavia (an ill omen) it has taken the UN General Assembly some 14 years to adopt a declaration on the rights of minorities. Today a vote will be taken on the UN's first attempt to codify the "rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities". The emphasis on rights of persons is vital, and provided it is not diluted, justifies support for the enterprise.

Almost all nations of the world have minorities. Most democracies have in place some formal recognition of such diversity, and their constitutions include some protection for groups, be they religious, ethnic or cultural. These are distinct from, and additional to, the more basic human rights

vouchsafed to every citizen. Such recognition, for example, lies behind the provision of Welsh-language education in Wales or the frustrated attempt in Northern Ireland to institute power-sharing, guaranteeing political power to a religious minority.

Not all democracies, however, accept the notion of special rights for minorities *qua* minorities. France and Turkey held up adoption of the UN declaration for years for fear that it would encourage fissiparous tendencies in society. The Turks, who moulded a new country out of a hotch-potch of nationalities after the Ottoman empire, insist that only equal rights for all will prevent ethnic, religious or linguistic separatism. France objects on more philosophical grounds: the French state itself, quick to incorporate into domestic law all international treaties, is deemed sufficient guarantee of democratic rights to all citizens.

French doubts have been stilled. But there must be constant vigilance to prevent minority rights diminishing individual human rights. Such doubts are fuelled by politicians exploiting minority fears for undemocratic ends — as in Yugoslavia. A UN declaration could, in the wrong hands, be a licence for separatism and ethnic ambitions. The intention of those voting today is the opposite: recognition of minority rights should allay grievances, making society inclusive rather than exclusive. By encouraging a looser framework in tightly centralised states, it would lessen rather than exacerbate the forces of separatism.

The founding fathers of the UN were much influenced by the failure of the League of Nations, which agonised for years, in the end fruitlessly, over national minority issues left by the first world war. In 1945 the UN shied away from this sensitive issue; now it has tried to incorporate in the new declaration the best thinking of the old league. The message of history is: handle with care.

SECURITY IN ACADEME

The dissident must be separated from the mediocre

In the present economic climate, it is difficult to make a case for keeping academic security of tenure. For those coping with unemployment or the threat of it, the idea that any profession still offered jobs for life might seem an untenable privilege.

During the 1980s many sections of the workforce which had unquestioned job security were reformed. In that spirit, the 1988 Education Reform Act abolished tenure for all new university appointments, hoping to achieve stricter discipline and greater productivity. Since then, lecturers have been employed under contracts which do not offer the security of the old system in which academic posts were held until retirement.

But until the compulsory redundancy of Edgar Page, a philosophy lecturer at Hull University, who was appointed in 1966, it had been thought that the old rules still applied to those hired before the 1988 act. Mr Page, who was made redundant because of his university's financial difficulties, won the first round of his legal battle to be reinstated in the High Court last year, but the overturning of that judgment by the Court of Appeal resulted in the case going to the House of Lords. Yesterday the Law Lords found that the High Court had no power to reverse the university's decision, which means that the changes in the 1988 act are effectively retroactive.

This raises issues beyond the simple question of whether lecturers who thought themselves impregnable may now lose their jobs. The system of tenure was devised to ensure intellectual independence in scholarly life by guaranteeing the safety of academics who might hold unorthodox

views. Not only did it protect individuals who expressed unfashionable opinions: it prevented a head of department who was a partisan of some particular academic faction (a Marxist economist, perhaps, or a structuralist literary theorist) from purging all those who did not agree with him.

This tradition has been sacrosanct because it is necessary for healthy academic pursuit. Students need to be exposed to all shades of opinion, not simply the one favoured by the present professor of a department. Without variety and debate between opposing interpretations, there can be little life or progress in intellectual endeavour.

Yet when poor performance presents no risk, academic standards are bound to be threatened. With security of tenure, the mediocre were sheltered as effectively as the dissident. Any undergraduate can relate anecdotes of poorly prepared lecturers who fail to update their material from one year to the next. Inefficiency, incompetence and plain laziness were difficult to check without the ultimate sanction of the sack. With no economic flexibility in the system, university departments could become hidebound. This is why the government is pressing for performance-related pay in the universities.

Nonetheless, the principle of academic free speech still needs protection. Now that it is possible to remove even those academics hired before 1988, very specific and limited conditions should be laid down on which lecturers may be dismissed. The three University Commissioners have been entrusted with this task by the 1988 act: they must ensure that those who hold minority views are made safe from victimisation.

MORTGAGE RATING

Different borrowers bring different risks

Banks and building societies were so enthused by the house price boom of the 1980s that they barely bothered to enquire into the personal circumstances of their borrowers. If someone defaulted on a mortgage, the lender could simply reclaim the property used as security which, since house prices always rose, would be bound to be worth more than the loan.

The housing market turns out, however, to be no different from any other. As buyers of savings products are routinely advised, prices can go down as well as up. Banks and building societies are now ruing their rashness. Some of the properties they have repossessed are worth far less than the loans that were taken out against them.

The lenders are now starting to wonder whether they should not discriminate more carefully between likely defaulters and the rest. The Bristol & West building society is thinking of charging young, unmarried and childless people more for their mortgages on the basis that they are statistically more likely to default. As an incentive to those judged as "safer risks", the Cheltenham & Gloucester is charging lower rates to borrowers whose mortgages are less than 60 per cent of the value of their homes.

Some people will claim this is unfair. The societies may, indeed, have been testing the waters to see how sharp are the screams of pain. They should be bold. What they propose is no less discriminatory than the policy of motor insurers who charge twice as much to a 23-year-old driving a hot hatchback as to a 55-year-old grandmother.

Any particular 23-year-old may protest that he has never had an accident. But his statistically more dangerous age group must count against him. It may sound like rough justice. But it would be even less fair if the 55-year-old weekend potterer in a family saloon who has never had an accident were expected to subsidise the young, inexperienced, and, possibly feckless, driver by paying the same premium.

The mortgage market is just the same. If the young and single are more likely to default, then older, married couples have been subsidising that risk by paying exactly the same rate on their mortgages. A differential rate would reward their reliability.

The effect may be to deter the young from buying rather than renting. That can only be good for them and, in the long run, for the housing market. The 1980s saw panic buying, in which anyone who could possibly afford it raced into the property market in the fear that otherwise prices would gallop away out of reach. As a result, people were often saddled with houses, mortgages and all the responsibility that went with them at too early an age.

Far healthier would be a housing market like those on the continent, in which young people can safely rent, moving around the country until they want to get married, settle down and stay in one place. Differential mortgage rates may eventually restore some sanity to a housing market that regularly goes quite mad. For many useful lenders, however, it will still be a case of shutting the front door after the borrower has bolted.

Best interests of Hong Kong

From Mr Martin C. M. Lee, QC

Sir, Sir Percy Cradock's defence of the policy of appeasement of the "old China hands" towards Peking over Hong Kong (letter, December 1) reveals an extraordinary presumption and naivety. From his letter, one can see clearly why British policy towards Hong Kong has been such a miserable failure since the Joint Declaration was signed in 1984.

Sir Percy defends his policy of denying democracy to Hong Kong on the grounds that to do so is in fact in the best interests of the colony. He seems to have overlooked the fact that, when finally given the chance to elect democratically 18 of their Legislative Council members last year, the people of Hong Kong voted overwhelmingly for candidates who ran on a platform of going forward with democracy despite Peking's opposition.

Surely, we in Hong Kong know better than anyone else what is best for us, and it is presumptuous of Sir Percy to substitute his own judgment for that of the voters of Hong Kong.

"The logic or fairness of the Chinese response", states Sir Percy, "is neither here nor there, what matters is whether they will carry out their threats." In other words no matter the degree to which China breaks the promises of the Joint Declaration or tramples on Hong Kong's legitimate democratic aspirations, Britain should passively accept China's actions for fear that the communists could do worse.

This policy of craven appeasement — so similar to that adopted by Neville Chamberlain at Munich half a century ago — only invites Peking to become even more aggressive in disregard of its promises and treaty commitments. Peking's complete disregard of the provisions of the recently signed memorandum of understanding on the airport is a sad case in point.

While a policy of appeasement might be able to preserve a facade of Sino-British "co-operation", behind the facade lies the sell-out of Hong Kong's true interests.

Though Britain and China may have presented the Joint Declaration's promises to Hong Kong of a fully elected legislature and complete economic autonomy as an unbreakable international agreement, Sir Percy later proved all too willing to abandon these promises at the first hint of recalcitrance from Peking. If this was Britain's true intention, Sir Percy should have told us so in 1984.

Rather than kowtow to Peking, the British government will only earn China's respect if it stands up for principle and defends the Joint Declaration. Only when Peking realises that Britain will not be humbled by its threats will Peking begin to negotiate seriously and co-operate on Hong Kong issues.

It is his realisation of this truth that has enabled our new Governor, Mr Chris Patten — though his actual proposals fall far short of our democratic aspirations — to earn the support of 17 of the 18 democratically elected representatives of the people of Hong Kong.

Sincerely,
MARTIN LEE
(Chairman, United Democrats of Hong Kong),
704a Admiralty Centre, Tower 1,
18 Harcourt Road, Hong Kong.
December 2.

From Mr Ian Gracie

Sir, It is hard to understand what the Governor of Hong Kong hopes to gain by raising issues on the political front that are unacceptable to the Chinese government. The people of Hong Kong have little to gain and much to lose by his action. Their main hope after 1997 is full employment and stable prosperity. What will be the use of a vote on an empty stomach?

Mr Patten should understand that China will not be prepared to lose face by accepting his ideas, even if she may lose some measure of commercial prosperity as a result.

Consideration should also be given to our own trade with China. In the present world recession our own government should surely be concerned to enhance relations with China, to build up trade and improve employment prospects for the United Kingdom.

The prospects for democracy in Hong Kong lie with the prospects for democracy in China and not with anything that Mr Patten may say or do. He will come home in 1997. The people of Hong Kong will have to make the best of it in China.

Yours faithfully,
IAN GRACIE,
Little Pitt Farm,
Pett Bottom,
Bridge, Canterbury, Kent.

From Mr Trevor Mound

Sir, Mrs Thatcher congratulated Sir Percy Cradock on his "negotiating style" in talks with the Chinese on the future of Hong Kong. She was hardly one to applaud pusillanimity.

Yours faithfully,
TREVOR MOUND,
8 Beaufort East, Bath, Avon.
December 2.

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Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Raising funds for Windsor Castle

From Mrs C. J. T. Dyas-Catton

Sir, Now the government has had time for thought, could it not make a "U-turn" over the open cheque to restore Windsor Castle? A more honourable, not to mention economical, solution in this time of recession would be to open a public restoration fund.

Those who want to help could donate as much as they wished. Those who do not could continue to support funds for schools, medical equipment, homeless people, hospices, etc.

Yours faithfully,
CARO J. T. DYAS-CATTON,
261 Alcester Road,
Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire.
December 1.

From the Canon Steward of the College of St George

Sir, The disastrous fire in the state apartments at Windsor Castle has raised the question of ownership of the castle and payment for the restoration.

It is not generally realised that a large portion of Windsor Castle, up to one quarter, is the freehold property of the Dean and Canons of Windsor. The area concerned contains the glorious St George's Chapel, the Horseshoe Cloister, Dean's Cloister, Canons' Cloister and a large range of buildings on the north wall of the castle.

Edward III, who in 1348 founded the Order of the Garter and the College of St George, made an astute move when he gave this area of the castle to the Dean and Canons (of whom there are at present four). Since that date they have been totally responsible for its maintenance and upkeep.

The Dean and Canons receive no

money from the state, the Queen or the Church Commissioners. They are entirely responsible for raising funds to finance their enormous responsibilities, mainly by making an entrance charge to tourists who want to view the chapel and by raising money from a worldwide group of Friends.

As with many of our fine cathedrals, the Dean and Canons are troubled with a constant financial headache: our limited sources of income do not meet our ever-increasing costs. But they are certainly not a burden on the defenceless taxpayer.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK STANESBY,
Canon Steward,
The College of St George,
4 The Cloisters,
Windsor Castle, Berkshire.
November 24.

From the Earl of Dudley

Sir, If some thoughts on the rebuilding of Windsor Castle, emanating from an authoritative source (letter from the Editor of *The Architects' Journal*, November 27), were to receive serious consideration, or even ministerial or royal approval (which hopefully should be open to doubt), that historic, much admired and beloved building could be more appropriately restyled Windsor Glasshouse.

Much as I admire the innovative designs of Mr I. M. Pei, I am one of the philistines who regard his other, very magnificent glass pyramid as entirely unsuitable as a frontispiece for the Louvre.

Yours sincerely,
DUDLEY,
6 Cottesmore Gardens, W8.
November 27.

The Queen and taxes

From Mr Philip Virgo

Sir, Her Majesty is Lord of Man, Duke of Normandy, Queen of Australia, the Bahamas, Canada, the Cayman Islands and all the other non-republican parts of the Commonwealth. Her advisers would be remiss in their responsibilities to future generations if they did not advise her to diversify her tax liabilities throughout her realms, at least until such time as England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland revert to decentralised, low-tax practice.

They might also advise her to consider adopting the peripatetic lifestyle of her Norman ancestors, thus avoiding tax residency in any one of her realms and saving her taxpayers the cost of maintaining governors general.

Yours sincerely,
PHILIP VIRGO,
2 Eastbourne Avenue,
East Acton, W3.
November 29.

No longer on oath?

From District Judge Jerome Karet

Sir, Would it not be pertinent, in our multi-faith society, to replace the ritual of oath-taking with a brief warning from the judge that evidence to be given must be true or penalties may result?

In the case of affidavits or other sworn statements the present time-wasting and unnecessary practice of having to swear the document before a solicitor (or court official) not involved with the preparation of the document could be replaced by a similar warning by the lawyer preparing the document and an endorsement of the document that the warning, perhaps

in some statutory form, has been given. This should be accompanied by a tightening-up of the law of perjury.

Such a system would, in my view, be far simpler (and in the case of affidavits cheaper) than the new guidelines to judges on how to handle such oath-taking (report, November 12) and would obviate the need to have so many different religious forms of oath.

Not many people today believe that they will be divinely punished for lying, which was the original deterrent purpose of oath-taking.

I am, yours faithfully,
J. KARET,
34 Fizzalan Road, N3.
November 30.

Restrictions on art

From Lord Inglewood, MEP for Cumbria and Lancashire North (European People's Party (Conservative))

Sir, Although the proposed widespread restrictions on the legal movement of works of art across Europe, now watered down (report, November 11), would not have worked, the advent of the single market and improved transport techniques nevertheless mean that the law as regards the recovery of stolen works of art is increasingly turning into a shield for the criminal, since title can relatively easily pass away from the victim of the theft.

Now that works of art are increasingly the tool of criminals and money launderers and that the art market, like all second-hand markets, contains

its share of those who do not ask questions, the rules relating to the passing of title are inadequate. In an age of computer data bases and photography accurate identification is quite straightforward.

Whenever an accurate identification can be made a stolen item should be returned to its original lawful owner. Any loss should be brought home, by means of recourse to law if necessary, to the person who sells on a stolen item.

It would make a lot of people a great deal more scrupulous if they paid the financial penalty for selling stolen goods. Without "fences" there would be much less theft.

Yours truly,
INGLEWOOD,
Hutton-in-the-Forest,
Penrith, Cumbria.
November 30.

Threat to YMCA

From Mr Tony Griffiths

Sir, May I draw attention to the extraordinary and disturbing circumstances surrounding the imminent forced closure of the London Central YMCA in Tottenham Court Road, London.

This situation has arisen because Central YMCA cannot now pay the interest on a bank loan taken out in March 1990.

The entire building, comprising hotel, club and sports centre, is therefore in the process of being sold and, although the Charity Commission must still approve the terms of the sale, contracts have been exchanged. If the sale goes through, the building must close on March 31, 1993.

The loss of this valuable social asset — the largest sports, leisure and social centre in London — will cause great deprivation to the centre's wide membership, as well as to its many visitors from overseas, and to the families of members who also enjoy its remarkable amenities.

London Central has occupied the same site in Tottenham Court Road for almost a century, and in the YMCA's 150th anniversary year it would be a tragedy if nothing can be done to stop this sale and save the club for the benefit of both London and the country.

Yours faithfully,
TONY GRIFFITHS
(Chairman, London Central YMCA Rescue Group),
112 Great Russell Street, WC1.

Adventures round Cape Horn

From Mr Malcolm McEwen

Sir, I was interested to read your Cape Horn leader and round-the-world British Steel Challenge race report (November 30), as I sat in my living room in front of a log fire, looking out across the Solent at breaking seas and a force 10 storm.

You do not mention that Steve Yates, medic on board the leading yacht, was rounding the Horn on Sunday for a record second time this year. His first rounding, in February, was on board our 80-ft maxi yacht on the first adventure circumnavigation of its kind — an unsponsored voyage around the great capes with 20 amateur crew. We rounded the Horn the "right way", in flat seas and brilliant sunshine.

Nine months later, our fellow crew-member will once again have enjoyed the sight of the "most awful place on earth" in shirt-sleeves — surely a sign of global climatic change.

Fair winds to the Challenge fleet

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM MCEWEN
(Skipper of Creightons Naturally),
105 Osborne Road, Warsash,
Southampton, Hampshire.
December 1.

From Mr Wallace Clark

Sir, Your leading article says that Cape Horn is "without hyperbole of superlatives the most awful place on earth". This is hardly fair.

A recent biography of Brigadier Miles Smeeton, entitled *High Endeavours*, describes how Prince Philip sailed round the Horn in one of Britannia's boats when "a gentle breeze was blowing and the sea unusually settled".

On March 29 last I approached at noon from the west in conditions so warm and calm that the three of us on board a 30-ft yacht jumped in by turns. You could say that we swam round the Horn.

While I share your respect for the courage of those who race in these waters, let us remember that Cape Horn on the right day can be a very pleasant place.

Yours truly,
WALLACE CLARK,
Gortead Cottage,
Upperlands, Co. Londonderry.
November 30.

From Dr G. C. L. Bertram

Sir, Now an octogenarian, I read with pleasure your discerning leader about modern sailing around Cape Horn. Fifty-eight years ago it was so very different.

We of John Rymill's British Graham Land expedition 1934-7, the only inter-war British Antarctic venture, sailed those same seas in Penola, our small three-masted topsail schooner. But we sailed more southerly from the Falkland Islands to begin our explorations which changed the then-called Antarctic archipelago into the actual Antarctic peninsula.

Our captain, Bob Ryder, later VC for the St Nazaire raid, sailed us to a position such that our actual rounding of Cape Horn was by dog sledge on the sea-ice.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN BERTRAM,
St John's College, Cambridge.
November 30.

Sports letters, page 44

UK arms sales

From Mr João Boavida and Mr Shafiq Rahman

Sir, The Matrix Churchill affair has shown how badly informed some of our top politicians are. In the spirit of creating awareness, we wish to inform our government that Britain is a major arms supplier to Indonesia. Moreover, our politicians should note that Indonesia's record on human rights and illegal invasion and occupation can easily match Saddam Hussein's. In East Timor alone over 200,000 people have lost their lives, representing a third of the population.

Yours faithfully,
JOÃO BOAVIDA,
SHAFIQ RAHMAN,
Friends of East Timor,
12 Linton Road, Oxford.

Clerical dress

From Mr D. A. Hunter Johnston

Sir, The Reverend Dr G. A. Hodge (letter, November 27) writes: "The correct clerical hat for liturgical wear (inside a church) is a 'biretta'."

In *A Short Handbook of Public Worship*, written at the request of the Worship and Order Group and published in 1931 with their full approval, Dr Percy Dearmer wrote: A priest of the Church of England has no more right to wear a biretta than a coronet or a fez; and in church the eighteenth Canon forbids men to cover the head in service time except with a skull-cap. That is, if they have any infirmity of the head; nothing is suggested for those whose infirmity is within (page 82).

Canon B8, which is now supposed to govern the vesture of ministers during the time of divine service, does not authorise any headgear, not even a skull-cap.

Yours truly,
D. A. HUNTER JOHNSTON,
Eastfield, North Perrott,
Crewkerne, Somerset.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 3: The Queen today visited Oxford and was received at Oxford Railway Station by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Oxfordshire (Sir Ashley Pondenbury, Bt).

Her Majesty drove to Christ Church Cathedral and, having been received by the Lord Mayor of Oxford (Councillor Mrs Roy Cresswell), the Bishop of Oxford (the Right Reverend Richard Haines) and the Very Reverend John Drury (Dean of Christ Church), attended a Service of Thanksgiving for the Four Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the Diocese.

The Queen later honoured the College with her presence at Luncheon.

Her Majesty this afternoon made a tour of the Oxford House, Oxford House, Millfield House and Kirkley House in Summerton on the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of Oxford and was escorted by the Director (Dr David Beyer).

Queen unveiled a Commemorative Plaque at Kirkley House.

Subsequently, Her Majesty visited the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, Clinical Oncology Unit at Churchill Hospital and was received by the Chairman of Oxfordshire Health Authority (Dr Peter Iredale), the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy (President of the Fund) and Sir Walter Bodmer (Director-General).

The Queen, escorted by Professor Adrian Harris (Head of Unit), toured the Unit and unveiled a Commemorative Plaque.

Mrs John Dugdale, Major Sir Shane Blewitt, Mr Robin Jarvin and Major James Patrick were in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Trustee, this morning attended a Trustees' Meeting and Lunch at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich.

His Royal Highness, Baron Greenwich of Greenwich, this afternoon paid a visit in Greenwich Park, London SE10.

Mr Brian McGrath was in attendance.

By Command of The Queen, the Viscount St Davids, Lord in Waiting, was present at Royal Air Force Northolt this evening upon the Departure of The President of the Italian Republic and bade farewell to His Excellency on behalf of Her Majesty.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 3: The Princess Royal this morning re-opened the Wellcome Trust Building, 183 Euston Road, London NW1.

Mrs Malcolm Innes was in attendance.

Her Royal Highness, Patron, the British School of Osteopathy, this afternoon attended the Annual Degree Awards Ceremony at St Martin-in-the-Fields and was received by the Lord Mayor of Westminster (Councillor Dr Cyril Nemech).

The Princess Royal, Patron, the British School of Osteopathy, this evening attended the School's Seventy-fifth Anniversary Graduation Reception at St James's Palace.

Mrs Charles Ritchie was in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE
December 3: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, a Master of the Middle Temple, was pleased to

dine with her fellow Benchers at the Middle Temple this evening.

The Lady Grimthorpe and Sir Asquith Acland were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 3: The Prince of Wales this afternoon left from Royal Air Force Northolt for a visit to France.

His Royal Highness this evening attended a Dinner for participants in the Anglo-French Colloquium at Versailles.

Mr Peter Westmacott is in attendance.

The Princess of Wales, Patron, English National Ballet and the Foundation for Conductive Education, this evening attended the Nutcracker Ball at the Durbur Court, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London SW1.

Viscountess Campton and Mr Patrick Jephson were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 3: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President, the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, this afternoon opened T. A. Fraser House, the West Mersey Child Protection Team's building in Wavertree, Liverpool.

Her Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Merseyside (Mr Henry Cottrell).

The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, was present this evening at a gala performance of "Les Misérables" held at the Palace Theatre, Manchester, in aid of Body Positive North West.

Her Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Greater Manchester (Colonel John Timmins).

Mrs Jane Stevens was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 3: The Duchess of Gloucester today opened the tenth Army Conference of the Federation of Army Wives (UKLF) at the Churchill Hall, Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, and was received on arrival by Mrs Naomi Robinson (Deputy Lieutenant of the Royal County of Berkshire).

Mrs Howard Page was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
December 3: The Duchess of Kent, Patron of Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, this evening attended the Anglo-Israel Dinner in aid of the training of overseas nurses in palliative care care, at Guildhall, London EC1.

Mrs Julian Tomkins was in attendance.

HATCHED HOUSE LODGE
December 3: Princess Alexandra, Colonel-in-Chief, this evening attended the Annual Dinner of the Officers of the 17th/21st Lancers at the Cavalry and Guards Club, Piccadilly, London W1.

The Lady Mary Mumford was in attendance.

Today's royal engagements
The Duke of Kent, Chancellor of Surrey University, will preside over ceremonies for the conferment of degrees in Guildford Cathedral at 2.30 p.m. and will attend a dinner for honorary graduates at the university at 7.15.



Donkey serenader Romulus, representing the Society for the Protection of Animals Abroad, meets Basil, senior drum horse of The Blues and Royals. Holding the reins is Lance Sergeant Paul Tidy, Royal Army Veterinary Corps. Romulus, who lives at Newham's City Farm in East London, is helping the society's 70th anniversary fund-raising activities and started by visiting the Household Cavalry at Hyde Park Barracks, London.

Lord Cheshire, VC

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Group Captain Lord Cheshire, VC, OM, DSO, DFC, was held in the Chapel of Stowe School on Monday, November 30, 1992, in the presence of Baroness Ryder of Warsaw who read the prayer, Uspode Mr. Speaker, Jos. de Veneris. The Chaplain of Affairs at the service was also present. The other guests were:

Mr John Biffen, MP, and Mrs Biffen, Dr Michael Clark, MP, and Mrs Clark, Lord and Lady Darnley of Kingston, Dame Janet Poles, MP, Mr Miles Atchison, Mr Moira Black, Mr Patrick Goldstein, Mr Richard Colwell, Mr Roger Dawn, Mr Sean Rowan, Mr Lorna Fitzsimons, Mr Roger Yarn, Mr Stanley Kellins, Mr Michael Redhouse and Mr Malcolm Wicks, MP.

The Speaker held a dinner last night in Speaker's House in honour of a Parliamentary Delegation from the Philippines led by Sen. President Neri A. Gonzales and Speaker Jose de Venecia. The Chaplain of Affairs at the service was also present. The other guests were:

Mr John Biffen, MP, and Mrs Biffen, Dr Michael Clark, MP, and Mrs Clark, Lord and Lady Darnley of Kingston, Dame Janet Poles, MP, Mr Miles Atchison, Mr Moira Black, Mr Patrick Goldstein, Mr Richard Colwell, Mr Roger Dawn, Mr Sean Rowan, Mr Lorna Fitzsimons, Mr Roger Yarn, Mr Stanley Kellins, Mr Michael Redhouse and Mr Malcolm Wicks, MP.

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayor, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies, attended the installation dinner of the Company of Makers of Playing Cards held last night at Drapers' Hall. The Master, Mr D.C. Warner, presided. The Lord Mayor, Mr J.P.B. Brooke-Little, Norroy and Ulster King of Arms, and Mr C.J.F. Latham, Senior Warden, also spoke. Among those present were:

Viscount and Viscountess Slim, the Masters of the Drapers, Palmer, Salters, Plumbers, Feltmakers and Solicitors Companies and the Master Cutler in Hallamshire.

Salmon & Trout Association. Mr Jack Coates, CBE, DFC, Vice President, presided at the annual dinner of the Salmon & Trout Association held at Fishmongers' Hall on Wednesday, December 2, 1992. The principal guests were:

Lord and Lady Moran, Lord Comys (Prime Warden of the Fishmongers' Company), the Hon. Sir John May, and Mr Andrew Dewar, Deputy Director of Allied Distillers.

Warwickshire Lieutenant Viscount Daventry, Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire, presided at a dinner held last night at Ship's Hall, Warwick.

A dinner was given last night by Mr Leslie Wagner, Vice-Chan-

cellor of the University of North London, at the Reform Club. Guests were:

Mr Miles Atchison, Mr Moira Black, Mr Patrick Goldstein, Mr Richard Colwell, Mr Roger Dawn, Mr Sean Rowan, Mr Lorna Fitzsimons, Mr Roger Yarn, Mr Stanley Kellins, Mr Michael Redhouse and Mr Malcolm Wicks, MP.

Service dinners
17th/21st Lancers
Princess Alexandra, Colonel-in-Chief, attended the last annual dinner of the Officers of the 17th/21st Lancers, which was held last night at the Cavalry and Guards Club, Colonel R.S. Longdon, Colonel of the Regiment, presided.

HAC
The Honourable Artillery Company Mess Club entertained members of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Boston, Massachusetts, and other guests at dinner last night at Armoury House, Major R.C. Biddell, president, was in the chair. Sir Antony Acland, Provost of Eton, and Major-General James A. Lynch, Jr, also spoke.

Anniversaries
BIRTHS: Thomas Carlyle, essayist and historian, Ecclefechan, Dumfriesshire, 1795; Samuel Butler, author of *The Way of All Flesh*, Langar Rectory, Nottinghamshire, 1835; Edith Cavell, nurse, Swardeston, Norfolk, 1865; Francisco Franco, dictator of Spain 1939-75, El Ferrol, Galicia, 1892.

DEATHS: Armand Jean, Duc de Richelieu, cardinal and statesman, Paris, 1642; Thomas Hobbes, philosopher, Hardwick Hall, Derbyshire, 1679; Luigi Galvani, physician and physicist, Bologna, 1798; Benjamin Britten, Baron Britten, composer, Aldeburgh, 1976.

Naylor Prize
The London Mathematical Society's 1993 Naylor Prize and Lectureship in Applied Mathematics is awarded to Professor M.V. Berry, FRS, a research Professor at Bristol University, for his work on the theory of waves, and its applications to fields such as optics and quantum mechanics, and for his recent discovery in exponential asymptotics.

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School news

Wycombe Abbey School
Open Sixth Form Scholarships (terable from September 1993) have been awarded as follows:

Mathematics: Amy Bramley, North London Collegiate School; Antonia Hamilton, Wycombe Abbey School; Rebecca Whitehead, Stamford High School.

Minor Scholarships: Lisa Cohen, Tanya Muelken and Susan Shaplin, Wycombe Abbey School.

Exhibitions: Sophie Knight and Vera Vesterich, Wycombe Abbey School.

Internal Sixth Form Scholarships (terable from September 1993) have been awarded as follows:

Fisher Scholarship: Georgina Brehms and Emma McIntosh, Flux Dundas Schoolship jointly.

Luncheons
HM Government
The Hon Douglas Hurd, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, and Mrs Hurd held a farewell luncheon yesterday at 1 Carlton Gardens in honour of the Spanish Ambassador and Señora de la Morena.

Canada-UK Chamber of Commerce
Mr Christopher Jonas, President of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon of the Canada-UK Chamber of Commerce held yesterday at the Four Seasons Inn on the Park Hotel, Mr Iain Hope, president, was in the chair. The Agents General for Alberta and British Columbia were among those present.

Lecture
Royal Fine Art Commission
The Hon Peter Brooke, CH, Secretary of State for National Heritage, delivered the annual Royal Fine Art Commission lecture yesterday at 7 St James's Square, Lord St John of Fawley, chairman, presided.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr D.G.S. Battersley and Miss R.C. Stanton
The engagement is announced between David, elder son of Mr and Mrs D.S. Battersley, of Pinton, Lancashire, and Ruth, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs L.A.J. Stanton, of Reading, Berkshire.

Mr S.R. Dawes and Miss S.M. Vahl
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr Derek Dawes and the late Mrs Pamela Dawes, of Backwell, Avon, and Shari, eldest daughter of Dr Peter and Mrs Dale Vahl, of Richmond, Surrey.

Mr W.R.S. Payne and Miss A.M. Shiele
The engagement is announced between Richard, eldest son of Mr and Mrs W.R.S. Payne, of Billingshurst, West Sussex, and Adrienne, daughter of Mr and Mrs M. Shiele, of Artane, Dublin, Ireland.

Mr R.N. Ramsey and Miss J.C.E. McLaren
The engagement is announced between Robert, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Robert D. Ramsey, of Kilmington House, Angus, and Jessica, younger daughter of Sir Robin and Lady McLaren, of the British Embassy, Feking.

Mr G.M. Redmayne and Miss A.J. Grayburn
The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Mr Richard Redmayne and Mrs Anthony Gray, both of London, and Annabel, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John Grayburn, of Parley Green, Surrey.

The Hon Hugo Remnant and Miss A.R. Reynolds
The engagement is announced between Hugo Charles, youngest son of Lord and Lady Remnant, of Wargrave, Berkshire, and Annabel Rachel, only daughter of Mr and Mrs T.R. Reynolds, of Tolland Royal, Dorset.

Mr N. von Schirmding and Miss J. Paday
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mr and Mrs Kurt von Schirmding, of Johannesburg, and Jessica, daughter of Mr Jeremy Paday, of London, and Mrs Alan Marshall, of Huddersfield, Yorkshire.

Mr J.C.B. Powell and Miss S.R. Morgan
The engagement is announced between Jonathan Charles Boyd, elder son of Commander and Mrs Jessica Powell, of Greenlands, Surrey, and Sarah Rhianon, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Morgan, of Cymric, Craig Penlline, South Glamorgan.

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JOHN FOREMAN

Foreman's films are distinguished by interesting casting and great technical proficiency. He was not a "creative" producer like Selznick, but a fixer and a negotiator. Nowadays this is what the producer's job requires above all. And within those limitations, few have done it better.

Chris Crutcher and was a seer, if largely social, member of the MCC, often meeting there, among others, Alec Waugh, a friend he had come to know when he, too, was spending the last war in Middle East intelligence, and lending him his MCC bow tie for the occasion. He claimed to have played tennis with Helen Will Moody and to have waltzed with Marilyn Monroe, and nobody who had experience of his gregarious charm could have any reason to doubt either claim. He married Josephine Goudge, who died in 1983. He leaves a son and daughter.

Jacquino and as Don Basilio. Thereafter came Mime with the resident company. At the Metropolitan, New York, between 1949 and 1951, he repeated his regular roles of Basilio, Jacquino and Valzacchi as well as adding another favourite part, David in *Die Meistersinger*.

Apart from Pedrillo, Klein is preserved on record as Monostatos in Karajan's first recording of *Die Zauberflöte* and as Valzacchi in Erich Kleiber's *Der Rosenkavalier*. A historic performance from Vienna in 1943 preserves his Jacquino in a *Fidelio* conducted by Böhm.

FAX: 071 481 9313

[illegible]

NEWS

Post Office to cut 16,200 jobs

The Post Office has announced 16,200 redundancies in the next five years, 15,000 of them in the Royal Mail and 1,200 at Post Office counters. In London at least four large sorting offices will close.

Another 7,000 job losses are threatened, a possible additional 3,000, according to unions, at Ford and a further 4,000 at British Coal which is seeking further government intervention to adjust the electricity market's coal requirements. Pages 1, 27

No British combat role in Bosnia

John Major has ruled out the immediate possibility of a combat role for British troops in Bosnia although the government might consider military action to enforce the "no-fly" zone if necessary. Pages 1, 16, 20, 21

Tenure case ruling

A law lords' ruling upholding the redundancy decision of Hull University against a philosophy professor could have legal implications for the jobs of 18,000 senior lecturers. Page 5

City blasts

Two small bombs dislocated Manchester city centre yesterday as 64 people were taken to hospital for treatment and offices and shops were closed. Page 1

Loaded loans

Consumer campaigners have expressed initial concern at a building society's suggestion that mortgages should be risk rated so that unmarried and first-time buyers might pay substantially more than older, married buyers. Page 7

Congress brawl

The Russian Congress of People's Deputies broke up in chaos yesterday when a brawl erupted on the podium between conservatives and liberals over voting procedures. Page 14

Drivers' chance

A pilot scheme designed to help drink-drivers to deal with alcohol abuse may offer thousands of them a chance to have driving bans reduced. Page 3

Closing ranks

Channel Islanders are refusing to identify those among them who had welcomed the invading Germans during the second world war. Page 7

Estuary that went for a birdsong

Three hundred acres of intertidal mud, sand and saltmarsh on the Hayle estuary in Cornwall — where 343 species of bird, including widgeon, curlew and teal, have been seen — have been bought by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds from the businessman Peter de Savary for £1. Page 5

'Sad little boy'

Nicholas MacMahon, the gifted four-year-old who has started university classes, was described by the principal of his former school as "a very sad little boy" who may never know a happy childhood. Page 3

West blamed

Erich Honecker, former East German leader accused of the manslaughter of 13 countrymen killed trying to escape, blamed the West for creating circumstances which forced him to build the Berlin Wall. Page 14

Under fire

For the first time, British troops operating in the Balkans came under fire from both sides of the conflict yesterday in two separate incidents. Page 16

Peking talks

In spite of renewed threats to abandon the joint agreement on the future of Hong Kong, Peking has agreed to take part in scheduled talks. Page 15

Changing Britain

The 1991 census confirmed the ageing of the population and among trends the most noticeable was the mass migration from Scotland and the North to the South East. Page 10

Closed shops

A woman accused of a string of shoplifting offences has been banned from every store and supermarket in Britain as a condition of her bail. Page 3



Disaster threat: the Greek tanker, *Hercules Tower*, spills oil from its 80,000-ton cargo threatening holiday beaches and shellfish beds. It caught fire after being forced on to rocks in bad weather at the entrance to La Coruña harbour in northwestern Spain

SPORT

Royal return: Direct Line, the insurance subsidiary of the Royal Bank of Scotland, contributed £15 million, three quarters of the bank's profit. Page 25

Hanson first: The Hanson conglomerate announced its first drop in pre-tax profits for 29 years from £1.32 bn to £1.29 bn. Page 25

Markets: The pound had a good day yesterday with the trade-weighted index rising from 79.5 to 80.5. Against the dollar it rose 2 cents to \$1.5680 and against the mark 4 1/2 pence to DM2.4750. Shares lifted the FT-SE 100 index 6.9 to 2771.0. Pages 25, 28

Golf: Nick Faldo was leading after the first round of the Million Dollar Challenge in Sun City, South Africa yesterday and in Australia, Colin Montgomerie, helped by a freak putt, took a share of the first-round lead in the Johnnie Walker Classic. Page 46

Tennis: The rage still burns in John McEnroe as he prepares to play for the United States against Switzerland in the Davis Cup final in Fort Worth this weekend. Simon Barnes reports. Page 46

Football: Liverpool's chances of re-admission to the European Cup Winners' Cup improved yesterday as Uefa, the European governing body, continued to debate what action to take against Spartak Moscow, who are accused of failing to register a player they signed from a Russian club. Page 48

Volvo with a spic: Vaughan Freeman reports that the search for an alternative vehicle that uses safe power may be over. Page 43

Peace, grace and reliability: A road test on the new Jaguar finds that it has all the old virtues and much more besides. Page 43

What contract? At present, cars which cost as much as a small home can be bought and sold with all the legal documentation of a loaf of bread. Page 43

The latest: Six pages of reports on the latest developments in the world of information technology. Pages 36 to 41

Cornish cream: How the painter Peter Lanyon (1918-1964) captured the soul of his native Cornwall. Page 33

Frightfully good: Roald Dahl's *The Witches*, in its new adaptation for the stage. Page 33

Fighting fascism: How Germany's playwrights, film-makers and intellectuals are confronting the resurgence of right-wing xenophobia. Page 34

Take your partners: A new National Theatre production of *Carousel*, featuring the final choreography of the late Sir Kenneth MacMillan, reaffirms the notion of using dance to tell the story. Page 35

Love me, love my presents: What madness drives parents to sleep overnight on the run-up to Christmas in car parks? Libby Purves reports. Page 19

Steak taken to task: Richard Stott, a former editor of the *Daily Mirror* and *The People*, responds to Michael Shea's three-part attack in *The Times* on the tabloid press. Page 19

Chancellor and the press: Valerie Grove visits Norman Lamont at the Treasury and discusses credit cards, bottles of wine and hears a prediction that "the press will become a major political issue of the 1990s, as the unions were in the 1970s. They are both over-mighty subjects". Page 18

LISTINGS

After the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb in the Valley of the Kings, "Tut mania" swept the world, influencing the design of clothes, pottery and buildings. *The Face of Tutankhamun* (BBC2, 9pm). Page 47

OPINION

Rights of minorities

There must be constant vigilance to prevent minority rights diminishing individual human rights. A UN declaration could, in the wrong hands, be a licence for... ethnic ambitions. Page 21

Security in academe

The principle of academic free speech still needs protection. The three University Commissioners have been entrusted with this task by the 1988 act; they must ensure that those who hold minority views are made safe from victimisation. Page 21

Mortgage rating

Differential mortgage rates may eventually restore some sanity to a housing market that regularly goes quite mad. Page 21

BEN MACINTYRE

"Near-reality" programming, in which crime is not essential, but excitement is, has become a staple of the American television diet — but what effect is it having on viewers? Page 20

CONNOR CRUISE O'BRIEN

American interventionists have reached a dangerously high pitch of moral fervour as the call for action in the former Yugoslavia grows. Page 20

MATTHEW d'ANCONA

Sexual surveys... bring out the worst in those that answer them. Shere Hite's massive tome on male sexuality, published five years after its female predecessor in 1981, reads like an extended group therapy session. Page 20

A Hong Kong QC says British policy towards the colony has been a miserable failure since the Joint Declaration was signed in 1984. Page 21

German Chancellor Kohl is correct in judging that Germany is burdened with refugees and economic stagnation. But those are not his most urgent problems. It should be putting more criminals in jail instead of allowing bands of thugs to stain Germany's world-wide reputation. — *The Wall Street Journal*

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Butch Reynolds, 400 metres world record holder, has been awarded nearly £18 million after allegations that he had used steroids. Page 48

Lloyd Bentsen, 71, Senate finance committee chairman, is being widely tipped to become President Clinton's first treasury secretary. Page 17

Francis Bacon, who died in April this year, has left more than £10 million to his close friend and favourite model John Edwards. Page 8

Gary Blissett, the Brentford forward, was found not guilty of causing a Torquay United defender grievous bodily harm on the field. Page 3

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

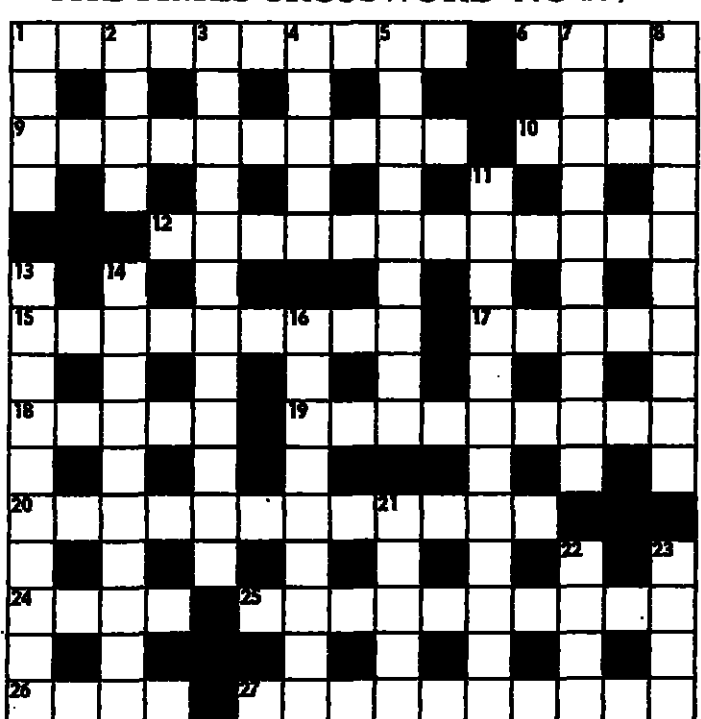
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THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,093



- ACROSS
- Rallying, essentially, around one banner (10).
 - Strap drawn back to administer blow (4).
 - ARA, perhaps, contrived to find new means of expression (10).
 - Right time for the latest fashion (4).
 - Basic of safe sex MP's in — or has he changed? (12).
 - Beggar's confession of being beyond redemption (9).
 - Times calls for conditions to be agreed (5).
 - Girl gets a ring, as it happens (5).
 - Issue clear-cut order about one (9).
 - I'd messed about with science and its lethal chemicals (12).
 - I see a name here (4).
- DOWN
- Possible catch for fisherman's successor (4).
 - Bloody wonderful? (4).
 - State capital needed after I'm failing to show foresight (12).
 - Housemasters (5).
 - Great explosion engulfing a little fuel tank (9).
 - Met expert held in awe — at her mansion (10).
 - Offender in France's long past his best? Right (10).
 - Helpful piece of music (12).
 - Lines set by one master (10).
 - Slow progress with things that are hard to get into room (6,4).
 - Chronicle knowing volume is in Italian (9).
 - Man embraces little girl, in a manner of speaking (5).
 - Child who's unruly and aberrant? Nothing odd in that (4).
 - Composer in time for audition (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,092

SADHU DISMEMBER
PURCHASER TALKS
LOBER TAPDANCER
HEELTAP ENDGAME
EPSTEIN BRIGAND
MOLEGRAT TUDOR
SPECTACLE DAMON

TIMES WEATHER

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
Great London	701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702
Dorset, Devon & Cornwall	703
Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset	704
Berkshire, Oxfordshire	705
Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire	706
Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire	707
West Midlands & Shropshire	708
Central Midlands	709
East Midlands	710
Lincolnshire & Humberside	711
Yorkshire & North Yorkshire	712
North East	713
W & S Yorkshire & Wales	714
W & S Wales & Wales	715
W & S Wales & Wales	716
W & S Wales & Wales	717
W & S Wales & Wales	718
W & S Wales & Wales	719
W & S Wales & Wales	720
W & S Wales & Wales	721
W & S Wales & Wales	722
W & S Wales & Wales	723
W & S Wales & Wales	724
W & S Wales & Wales	725
W & S Wales & Wales	726
W & S Wales & Wales	727
W & S Wales & Wales	728
W & S Wales & Wales	729
W & S Wales & Wales	730

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and road-work information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
C. London (within M25 & S. Circle)	732
M25 roadworks M25-M4	733
M4 roadworks M4-M25	734
M25 roadworks M25-M4	735
M4 roadworks M4-M25	736
M25 roadworks M25-M4	737
M4 roadworks M4-M25	738
M25 roadworks M25-M4	739
M4 roadworks M4-M25	740
M25 roadworks M25-M4	741
M4 roadworks M4-M25	742
M25 roadworks M25-M4	743
M4 roadworks M4-M25	744
M25 roadworks M25-M4	745
M4 roadworks M4-M25	746
M25 roadworks M25-M4	747
M4 roadworks M4-M25	748
M25 roadworks M25-M4	749
M4 roadworks M4-M25	750

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and road-work information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
London & SE traffic, roadworks	751
C. London (within M25 & S. Circle)	752
M25 roadworks M25-M4	753
M4 roadworks M4-M25	754
M25 roadworks M25-M4	755
M4 roadworks M4-M25	756
M25 roadworks M25-M4	757
M4 roadworks M4-M25	758
M25 roadworks M25-M4	759
M4 roadworks M4-M25	760
M25 roadworks M25-M4	761
M4 roadworks M4-M25	762
M25 roadworks M25-M4	763
M4 roadworks M4-M25	764
M25 roadworks M25-M4	765
M4 roadworks M4-M25	766
M25 roadworks M25-M4	767
M4 roadworks M4-M25	768
M25 roadworks M25-M4	769
M4 roadworks M4-M25	770

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and road-work information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
London & SE traffic, roadworks	771
C. London (within M25 & S. Circle)	772
M25 roadworks M25-M4	773
M4 roadworks M4-M25	774
M25 roadworks M25-M4	775
M4 roadworks M4-M25	776
M25 roadworks M25-M4	777
M4 roadworks M4-M25	778
M25 roadworks M25-M4	779
M4 roadworks M4-M25	780
M25 roadworks M25-M4	781
M4 roadworks M4-M25	782
M25 roadworks M25-M4	783
M4 roadworks M4-M25	784
M25 roadworks M25-M4	785
M4 roadworks M4-M25	786
M25 roadworks M25-M4	787
M4 roadworks M4-M25	788
M25 roadworks M25-M4	789
M4 roadworks M4-M25	790

Much of the country will have a bright, but chilly start, though there may be some rain near the Channel coast. Some showers will follow, most frequent in the North and West, and these will turn wintry at times. The showers may be prolonged in western and southern areas, but eastern England and Scotland should have the best of the sunshine. It will be cold everywhere. Outlook: bright, turning to rain later.

Region	Forecast
London & SE traffic, roadworks	791
C. London (within M25 & S. Circle)	792
M25 roadworks M25-M4	793
M4 roadworks M4-M25	794
M25 roadworks M25-M4	795
M4 roadworks M4-M25	796
M25 roadworks M25-M4	797
M4 roadworks M4-M25	798
M25 roadworks M25-M4	799
M4 roadworks M4-M25	800
M25 roadworks M25-M4	801
M4 roadworks M4-M25	802
M25 roadworks M25-M4	803
M4 roadworks M4-M25	804
M25 roadworks M25-M4	805
M4 roadworks M4-M25	806
M25 roadworks M25-M4	807
M4 roadworks M4-M25	808
M25 roadworks M25-M4	809
M4 roadworks M4-M25	810

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and road-work information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
London & SE traffic, roadworks	811
C. London (within M25 & S. Circle)	812
M25 roadworks M25-M4	813
M4 roadworks M4-M25	814
M25 roadworks M25-M4	815
M4 roadworks M4-M25	816
M25 roadworks M25-M4	817
M4 roadworks M4-M25	818
M25 roadworks M25-M4	819
M4 roadworks M4-M25	820
M25 roadworks M25-M4	821
M4 roadworks M4-M25	822
M25 roadworks M25-M4	823
M4 roadworks M4-M25	824
M25 roadworks M25-M4	825
M4 roadworks M4-M25	826
M25 roadworks M25-M4	827
M4 roadworks M4-M25	828
M25 roadworks M25-M4	829
M4 roadworks M4-M25	830

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and road-work information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
London & SE traffic, roadworks	831
C. London (within M25 & S. Circle)	832
M25 roadworks M25-M4	833
M4 roadworks M4-M25	834
M25 roadworks M25-M4	835
M4 roadworks M4-M25	836
M25 roadworks M25-M4	837
M4 roadworks M4-M25	838
M25 roadworks M25-M4	839
M4 roadworks M4-M25	840
M25 roadworks M25-M4	841
M4 roadworks M4-M25	842
M25 roadworks M25-M4	843
M4 roadworks M4-M25	844
M25 roadworks M25-M4	845
M4 roadworks M4-M25	846
M25 roadworks M25-M4	847
M4 roadworks M4-M25	848
M25 roadworks M25-M4	849
M4 roadworks M4-M25	850

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and road-work information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
London & SE traffic, roadworks	851
C. London (within M25 & S. Circle)	852
M25 roadworks M25-M4	853
M4 roadworks M4-M25	854
M25 roadworks M25-M4	855
M4 roadworks M4-M25	856
M25 roadworks M25-M4	857
M4 roadworks M4-M25	858
M25 roadworks M25-M4	859
M4 roadworks M4-M25	860
M25 roadworks M25-M4	861
M4 roadworks M4-M25	862
M25 roadworks M25-M4	863
M4 roadworks M4-M25	864
M25 roadworks M25-M4	865
M4 roadworks M4-M25	866
M25 roadworks M25-M4	867
M4 roadworks M4-M25	868
M25 roadworks M25-M4	869
M4 roadworks M4-M25	870

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and road-work information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
London & SE traffic, roadworks	871
C. London (within M25 & S. Circle)	872
M25 roadworks M25-M4	873
M4 roadworks M4-M25	874
M25 roadworks M25-M4	875
M4 roadworks M4-M25	876
M25 roadworks M25-M4	877
M4 roadworks M4-M25	878
M25 roadworks M25-M4	879
M4 roadworks M4-M25	880
M25 roadworks M25-M4	881
M4 roadworks M4-M25	882
M25 roadworks M25-M4	883
M4 roadworks M4-M25	884
M25 roadworks M25-M4	885
M4 roadworks M4-M25	886
M25 roadworks M25-M4	887
M4 roadworks M4-M25	888
M25 roadworks M25-M4	889
M4 roadworks M4-M25	890

ARTS 33-35

On their toes:
the National's
new Carousel

INFOTECH 36-41

Pulling faces with
interactive
compact discs

SPORT 44-48

Reynolds awarded
£17.6m damages
in athletics lawsuit

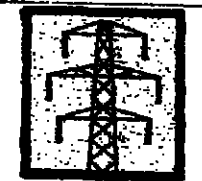
SMALL
BUSINESS
ON FRIDAY
Page 32

THE TIMES 2

FRIDAY DECEMBER 4 1992

BUSINESS TODAY

POWER SURGE



Eastern Electricity, one of the biggest of the 12 privatised power distributors, lifted interim profits by 70 per cent
Page 27

NO PANIC

The stock market reacted calmly to the announcement of increased losses at Greycoat, the London property developer
Page 27

WATER TIGHT



Growth in non-core businesses should protect Severn Trent from a tougher price regime
Times, page 26

TOMORROW



Tom Peters, the American management guru, charges \$55,000 an hour for lectures but says he would not know how to buy shares

THE POUND

US dollar 1.5840 (+0.0145)
German mark 2.4711 (+0.0376)
Exchange index 80.5 (+1.0)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 2091.7 (-6.1)
FT-SE 100 2771.0 (+6.9)
New York Dow Jones 3278.69 (-7.56)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 17260.08 (-133.60)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 7%
3-month interbank: 7.75%
3-month overnight: 6.75%
US: Prime Rate: 6%
Federal Funds: 5.75%
3-month Treasury Bills: 3.39-3.27%
30-year bonds: 100.75-100.75%

London: New York:
£: \$1.5870 £: \$1.5860
DM: £2.4744 DM: £1.5810
Sfr: £2.2110 Sfr: £1.4116
¥: £16.4250 ¥: ¥16.3800
¥: £16.21 ¥: ¥16.25
C: index: 80.5 C: index: 80.2
ECU: £0.793206 SDR: £0.901557
E: ECU/260706 C: SDR/1.06192
London Foreign market close

London: New York:
AM \$335.90 PM \$335.25
Close \$335.40-335.80
21.4-20.214.70
New York:
Comex \$335.45-335.95*

Brent (Dec) ... \$18.25/bbl (\$18.40)

RPI: 139.9 October (1987-100)
* Denotes midday trading price

Sterling surges as Germany tips into recession

By ANATOLE KALETSKY
AND WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

THE pound surged to its highest level since mid-October and gilt-edged prices jumped 1½ points, after official figures confirmed that Germany was in recession and the continuing turbulence in Europe led analysts to describe Britain as a "safe haven" for funds, outside the troubled ERM.

Dealers reported heavy buying of sterling after Germany announced a sharp fall in gross domestic product, and the steelworkers' union unexpectedly accepted a modest 3.3 per cent pay deal.

Germany's GDP fell 0.5 per cent in the third quarter, after a similar decline in the previous three months. The fact that Germany is in full-scale recession was further underlined by a plunge of 2.2 per cent in October's industrial output, a bigger fall than the anticipated 0.5 per cent.

The news from Germany led to a fall in the mark against all major currencies. But sterling's advance did not just reflect the mark's weakness, since the pound also gained against the dollar and yen.

Against the mark, the pound jumped 4½ pence to DM2.4750, its highest since October 14. Against the dollar, it rose 2 cents to \$1.5880, its best since October 28.

While the weak German figures were the trigger for the sharp rise of the pound, dealers said the underlying cause was probably the desire by

multinational companies and investment institutions to lock in the huge profits they had booked over the past three months in speculating against sterling. Many British-based companies and investors were eager to balance their currency exposures. Until this week, they had hoped to see sterling fall further before buying back the pounds they had sold before Black Wednesday.

With the year-end approaching and the pound rebounding, at least in the short term, many investors concluded they could not afford to wait any longer to take their profits. To compound evidence of recession, the Federal Statistics Office published a raft of other gloomy figures on industrial production, investment and unemployment.

Western German unemployment was up 54,000 in November. Despite this deterioration, unemployment remains low by European standards. Business insolvencies in the first nine months were up 12.9 per cent. Industrial production was down 2.2 per cent in October, and 3.6 per cent annually.

German official statistics are unreliable and prone to frequent and substantial revisions. But the consistency of the bad news, combined with

indicators, such as falling company profits and rising redundancies in manufacturing industry, can no longer be explained away on the basis of statistics. The only optimistic figure was the annualised figure for GDP, which showed a growth of 1 per cent against the third quarter in 1991.

Jürgen Möllemann, Germany's economics minister, who has been warning of recession for some time, lost no time in interpreting the figures as "a serious signal of a new weakening of business conditions". He said that the more west Germany slides into recession, the less chance east Germany has of recovering from its own slump.

However, the news of a modest wage pact in the steel sector could open the way to cuts in German interest rates early in the new year. Faced with a substantial downturn in Germany's steel industry, IG Metall agreed to a 3.3 per cent wage deal for 1993, after this year's 6.7 per cent rise, which led to a series of above-inflation wage agreements. The acceptance is further evidence of nationwide wage moderation, and will be welcomed by the Bundesbank, which may soon be running out of excuses for keeping interest rates at present levels.

Hanson goes into reverse

By ANGELA MACKAY

HANSON, the Anglo American conglomerate, for the first time produced a fall in annual pre-tax profits when the group yesterday reported a 2 per cent decline to £1.286 billion for the year ended September 30.

The company was optimistic about trading prospects in America next year, however conditions in Britain were expected to deteriorate further. Lord Hanson, chairman, said margins had eroded and markets had contracted worldwide, "although there were signs of that levelling out, particularly in the USA". He said the group expected tighter margins in the UK in 1993, but was still reviewing acquisition opportunities for growth in Britain and elsewhere.

For the first time, Hanson's results reflect the adoption of Financial Reporting Standard 3, affecting the treatment of exceptional items. Accordingly, a £39 million profit from



Hanson: 2% decline

the sale of the company's 2.8 per cent stake in ICI, a £156 million profit on the disposal of Ever Ready this year, a late payment for the Courage sale in 1985, and £23 million costs of closures and redundancies were accounted for before tax for the first time.

Operating profits continued to grow, increasing 12 per cent to £1.068 billion, while earnings per share rose slightly to 22.2p. The quarterly dividend was boosted by 0.1p

to 2.85p a share. On a divisional basis, chemicals suffered both in sales and profits, affected by an 8 per cent drop in world prices for titanium dioxide. Coal mining also saw lower profits, at £157 million against £170 million based on sales of £1.011 billion, and despite higher sales and record production, Gold Fields Mining's profits eased from £38 million to £29 million.

Brighter results came from industrial products such as Smith Metals, benefiting from British Gas orders, which helped carry profits £28 million higher to £86 million. Pressure from the non-smoking lobby failed to dent profits at Imperial Tobacco, which achieved a record result of £280 million on sales of £2.98 billion, while forest products benefited from higher world prices that boosted results by 50 per cent to £69 million.

Worldwide sales grew by £1 billion to £8.79 billion.

Comment, page 29

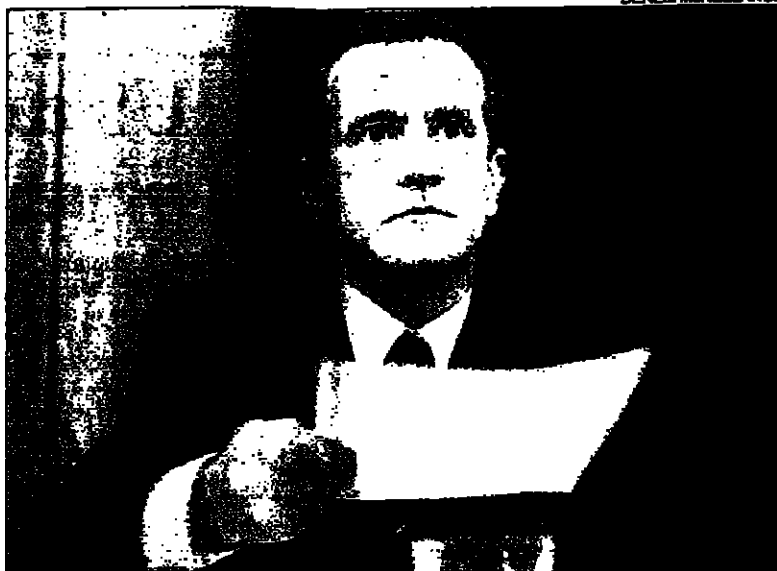
Royal Bank is thrown a Direct lifeline

By NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

PETER Wood, Britain's highest paid employee, has shown he is worth the £6.3 million he earned this year. Direct Line, the insurance arm of the Royal Bank of Scotland which he founded and runs, contributed three-quarters of the group's profits as the branch banking operation plunged into losses due to rising bad debts.

Profits at Direct Line, which was founded in 1984 and has grown to be the fifth-largest motor insurer in the country, rose 50 per cent to £15.1 million in the year to end-September, even allowing for Mr Wood's one-off bonus. The company, which sells motor and household insurance over the telephone, increased its premium income 71 per cent to £213 million during the year. The business is now thought to be worth £800 million, and George Mathewson, Royal Bank's chief executive, said it was on course to become the market leader.

Under a 1988 agreement, Mr Wood earns a bonus of 1 per cent of the rise in the value of Direct Line. Senior managers at the bank admitted, however, that when they signed the



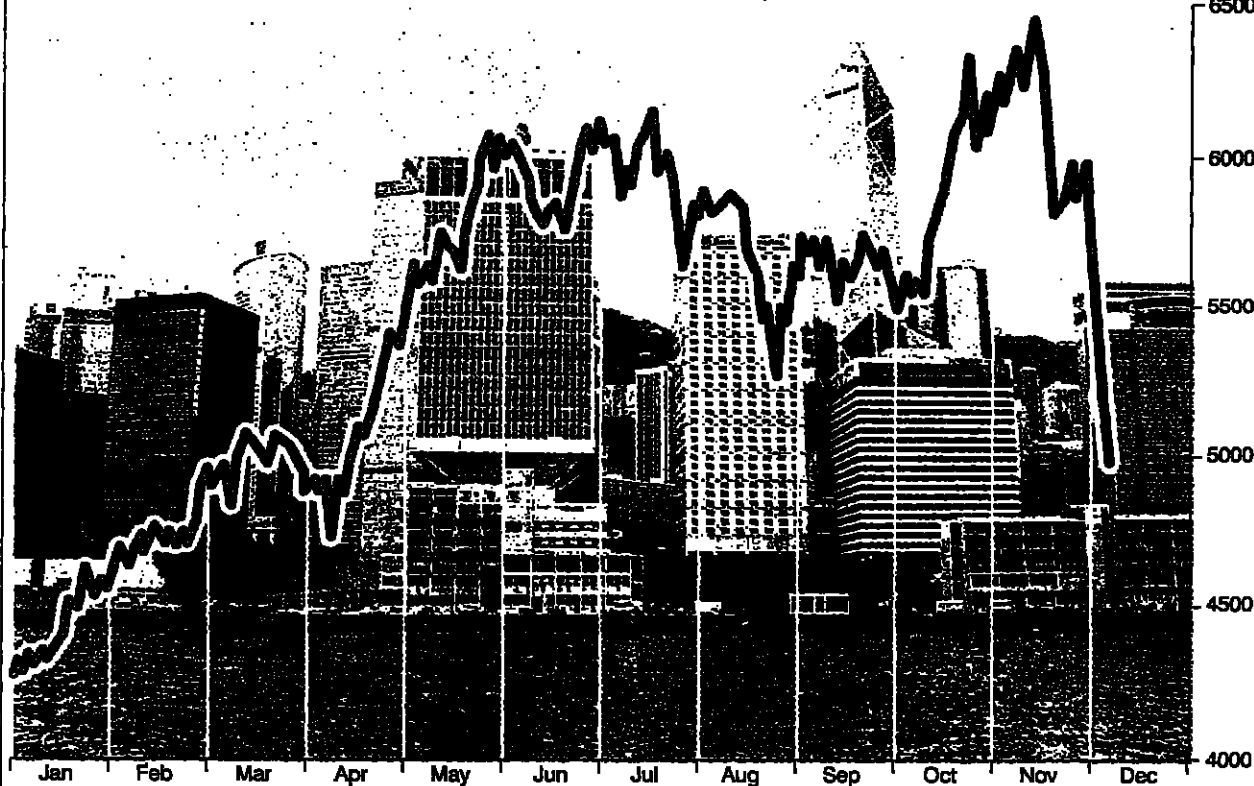
Profit fall: George Mathewson, chief executive of Royal Bank Scotland

agreement they never believed the business could expand so fast.

Royal Bank's profits by contrast plunged 64 per cent to £20.9 million as the group's bad debt provisions soared by 23 per cent to £409 million.

The core branch banking division turned from a profit of £10.7 million to a loss of £10.9 million. The slump forced the bank to pay most of the 3.8p interim dividend out of reserves. The group's results were further hit by

POLITICS HALTS HONG KONG BOOM



Hang Seng slumps 8% in one day

FROM LULU YU
IN HONG KONG

THE Hong Kong share market lost 8 per cent of its value yesterday as the Hang Seng index tumbled to 4,978, down 433 points. The slump was the biggest for a single day since the Tiananmen Square killings in 1989. Turnover was heavy at HK\$5.3 billion (£440 million).

The index has shed 1,009 points since Monday, or 17 per cent, purely on the escalating war of words between Britain and China. The index has already lost all recent gains made on the back of the US-China section 301 trade agreement and the pro-forma 14th party congress in China.

Analysts say if the fall continues, it could easily wipe out all the Hang Seng's gains on the year, which started at a low of 4,300 points. The market was worst hit yesterday morning, when there were rumours that the Sino-British diplomatic meeting scheduled for next week had been cancelled by Peking. Both the Hong Kong and Chinese governments later issued a denial. The Joint Liaison Group, which discuss all Hong Kong matters in the run-up to 1997 will meet for three days on Tuesday.

David Lavington, of Morgan Grenfell, said: "It is very hard to track the market because it is reacting to sentiment. For value-based investors, most stocks are a screaming buy at the moment." Sources say Chinese institutions have been selling heavily on the market, triggering a futures-driven slide: local investors also sold rapidly.

Pressure on Patten, page 15
Letters, page 21
Price of uncertainty, page 29

GrandMet profits fall for first time since 1974

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

GRAND Metropolitan is looking to the American economy and the second half of next year for recovery after one of the most difficult periods in its 30-year history.

The food and drinks conglomerate reported pre-tax profits down from £950 million to £902 million in the year to end-September, the first drop in annual profits since 1974, although a 7.7p final dividend makes a total 12.3p, up from 11.35p.

Sir Allen Sheppard, chairman and chief executive, said he was "cautiously optimistic" about prospects, despite the profits shortfall, which almost entirely reflected the non-repetition of an exceptional credit last year.

"Evidence of early economic recovery is sparse, although we are encouraged by current reports from the US and we expect overall market improvement progressively through 1993," he said.

The American food operations, including the Pillsbury and Green Giant brands, were worst hit. Trading profits from North American food operations fell 15 per cent to £181 million.

"It may be the second half before we see any major benefit to our business," said Sir Allen, "but we believe the worst is behind us in North America food."

Ian Martin, managing director, said the group was seeing green shoots of recovery in America and a resurgence of confidence since the Clinton election victory.

The American food side was hit by the slowdown in the American economy and an enormous glut of fresh produce, which drove down prices and margins. Mr Martin said the impact of the vegetable glut would continue into the first half, although prices

should start to climb again later in the year as production fell again.

The IDV drinks business, which includes brands such as Smirnoff vodka and J&B whisky, rose 12 per cent at the trading level to £509 million, representing more than half total profits.

In food retailing, Burger King pushed up profits by 9 per cent to £137 million but there were higher losses at the Pearle optical operation and the profits from the British retailing side, including the Chef & Brewer pub business, fell £5 million to £101 million.

GrandMet's share of losses from Intrepid, the joint pubs venture with Courage, rose £3 million to £14 million and the group was required to pump in another £32 million because the venture was in breach of financial covenants after an 11 per cent fall in the value of its estate. Further cash injections are not ruled out. GrandMet's earnings per

share fell from 32.4p to 30.1p. The sale of businesses, including Express dairies, left borrowings £158 million lower at £2.44 billion, representing gearing down from 75 to 64 per cent if the value of brands on the balance sheet is included, while interest payments - £77 million lower at £94 million - were covered more than ten times by profits.

Sir Allen said all the businesses that did not fit the core strategy had now been shaken out and no further significant disposals were planned.

The Alpo pet food operation, which had previously been put up for sale, would therefore be retained, despite the perceived need for further rationalisation of the American market.

Pearle, said Sir Allen, "either dies or recovers". Disappointment at the results sent the shares 12p lower to 428p.

Times, page 26

COUNTRY LIVING

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INSIDE
The January issue of
COUNTRY LIVING
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Disappearing act for GrandMet profits

SHAREHOLDERS who receive the Grand Metropolitan report and accounts are in for a surprise. The company has restated last year's figures according to the latest accounting guidelines on acquisitions, the so-called FRSS, and almost half the pre-tax profits have disappeared.

Furthermore, a five-year restated view of earnings per share shows a distinctly erratic flight path, for one of the classic late 1980s growth stocks. Earnings per share in 1992 were almost triple the previous year, when they were battered by the need to restate one-off costs, but they were still lower than in the three earlier years.

GrandMet was the company at the centre of the Terry Smith dispute over accounting policies this summer, and the 1992 figures are not short of the usual wrinkles, although admittedly to a rather less dramatic extent than previously. The pension fund contribution, to take one example, has slipped from £46 million to £39 million.

GrandMet's 1992 pre-tax profits, on an FRSS basis, are up from £448 million to £925 million because of the need to take on board £418 million of one-off last time.

At the trading level, 1992 was an awful year. The Green Giant food operation in America was badly hit by the glut in fresh produce. British retailing operations were hurt by the downturn in consumer spending and the main engine for growth remains the IDV drinks side.

The shares have dived and

partly recovered since the summer and are now selling on about 13.5 times this year's earnings.

Further earnings growth under the new rules will be limited, although American foods should show some recovery. The share price performance, once the market takes this on board, should become rather more pedestrian.

Severn Trent

LIKE its northern neighbour Yorkshire Water, Severn Trent has resumed real growth in utility income of about 1.4 per cent above price increases in the six months to end-September as residential connections outweigh reductions in industrial use. At the other end, efficiency savings of about 5.5 per cent kept the rise in operating cost to 3.8 per cent, excluding depreciation, while compliance with water and effluent standards remained among the best.

Customer service, previously a weak point, has improved with better use of information technology. Operating profit at the utility rose 17 per cent to £149 million, which is as well since the core business now has to finance rapidly rising borrowings.

Beyond the core, the lack of any upturn in industry did not help Biffa, the expensive waste management acquisition. Operating profits were £6 million, an eighth lower than those a year ago (not all of which were due to Severn Trent), but better than the last second half. For the year, Biffa should again make



Stepping up the growth rate: John Bellak, chairman of Severn Trent

about £12.5 million, little more than half its financing cost. Adding a small but growing contribution from municipal water management contracts abroad, Severn Trent, chaired by John Bellak, is at least making 5 per cent of its operating profit from non-core business. This should grow, providing some protection if previous virtue

in core operations is penalised rather than rewarded in Ofwat's review of prices from 1995. Meanwhile, the interim dividend rises an above-average 9.4 per cent to 7p from earnings up 2.7 per cent to 37.5p per share. Assuming some shading of full year dividend growth, the shares at 445p will yield about 6.4p and sell at less than 6.5 times

earnings. That rating will look far too humble as the end of takeover protection looms.

Royal Bank of Scotland

FIVE years ago the Royal Bank of Scotland wanted to play with the big boys and expanded its lending and

branch network aggressively in England. Unfortunately its southern customers have returned the compliment by going into bankruptcy or receivership by the thousand, blowing a hole in the bank's balance sheet.

Only Mountleith and Windsor Safari Park cost the Royal Bank of Scotland more than £10 million in bad debt provisions, while Royal's provisions south of the border are almost twice the level in Scotland. Most of the blame for the £401 million the bank set aside for dud loans therefore belongs to the bank's small business customers.

Bad debt provisions show few signs of falling significantly at Royal, or any of its competitors in the next two years. Luckily, the bank has a valuable ace in the hole in Direct Line, the insurer. Direct has grown from nowhere in the last eight years to become the country's fifth largest car insurer and is beginning to turn the household insurance market on its head in a similar fashion.

The company contributed three quarters of Royal's profit of £20.1 million. This is only the start. Direct should be contributing £60 million or more within three years. Anyone who buys Royal's shares at 189p, though, is looking into the mists of the future. Profits next year of £140 million would put it on a p/e ratio of 21, and it is likely to be 1995 before that rating looks reasonable. The shares have a reasonable yield backing, but still look decidedly overbought.

Lloyd's reduces costs 18.4% for next year

LOYD'S of London has made its first steps towards restoring the market's cost competitiveness by slashing the corporation's expenditure for 1993 by 18.4 per cent and unveiling plans to make further staff cuts of 10 per cent next year. In a move to pass on any cost savings, the corporation has cut membership subscriptions from 0.5 per cent of a name's gross allocated capacity to 0.4 per cent and reduced room charges payable by market practitioners from £307 per square foot to £280. Together the cuts result in an 11 per cent drop to £123 million in the corporation's revenue for 1993.

Overall the fall in corporation costs to £117 million is a step towards achieving the 30 per cent cut considered necessary by David Rowland, the corporation's new chairman, in the Task Force Report. Mr Rowland, who takes over the chairman's reins next year, said he will be paid a salary of £450,000, determined by his present £350,000 salary as chairman of Sedgwick, the UK's largest insurance broker, coupled with the amount needed to compensate for a loss of pension and benefits. As well as a move to cut the head count from the current level of 2,200 to 1,990 by the end of next year Peter Middleton, the corporation's recently appointed chief executive, said that there was a pay freeze for 1993. For senior management this is the second year running. A further £2 million is to be saved by reducing the number of corporation members allowed to sit in on committee meetings to one. In the past corporation representatives have numbered anything up to half a dozen.

Metro Radio ahead

ANOTHER rise in advertising revenue helped Metro Radio Group lift pre-tax profits by 10 per cent to £1.9 million (£1.7 million) in the year to end-September. The USM-quoted commercial radio group, which is based in Newcastle, saw advertising revenue rise 13 per cent to £12.6 million (£11.2 million). Turnover rose to £15.2 million (£12.8 million). Earnings per share were 7.5p (7.2p). A maintained final dividend of 3.5p a share leaves the total for the year unchanged at 5p. John Josephs, finance director, succeeds Neil Robinson as chairman and chief executive on January 1. Eric Lawrence will become finance director. The shares were unchanged at 146p.

Oceonics slips to £2.1m

OCEONICS Group, the marine surveying and positioning company, saw pre-tax profits slip to £2.1 million in the six months to end-September, compared with £2.4 million in the corresponding period last year. Earnings per share were 0.8p, down from 1.2p last time. There is no dividend (nil). An exceptional charge of £106,000 on foreign currency losses after the devaluation of sterling was offset by exchange gains of £270,000. Borrowings have been reduced to £709,000 from £3 million in the previous period. An extraordinary provision of £326,000 has been made against potential property losses stemming from the previous sale of the computers and networks division.

Shanks pegs payout

SHANKS & McEwan, the waste management group, sees no sign of a recovery in the sector. While environmental legislation directed more waste towards high standards of disposal, helping to maintain or increase volume, it was "extremely difficult" to pass on increased costs to customers. Shanks is holding the interim dividend at 2.24p a share. Pre-tax profits eased to £15.8 million (£16.73 million) in the six months to September 26, although earnings rose marginally to 6.39p (6.37p) a share, reflecting a lower tax charge. Peter Runciman, chairman, who announced his retirement yesterday, said no significant recovery in margins was expected in the second half. He will be succeeded by Gordon Waddell.

B Elliott to restructure

B ELLIOTT, the machine tool and engineering company that had its shares suspended in October, has reported a loss of £9.4 million in the year to April 3 (£6.52 million profit to end-March) and has announced a proposed restructuring and refinancing. There is no dividend (4.65p). A subscription by Falkner Morris Partners is intended to raise £9.5 million, a placing and open offer aims to raise £2.5 million and the group's bankers have agreed to convert £16.3 million of debt into shares. The proposals are expected to reduce net borrowings by £27 million. Results for the half year to October 2 show interim pre-tax losses deepening from £106,000 to £487,000.

DAF warns of job cuts

DAF, the truck maker, gave warning of further restructuring and job cuts to counter a market slump that has plunged it into heavy losses. In a joint statement with trade unions, DAF said it was continuing talks on a strategic alliance with supplier producer. It has held talks with Germany's Daimler-Benz and Japan's Hino Motors. DAF also expects to conclude talks soon with its banks and the Dutch and Belgian governments aimed at strengthening its equity base. It gave no details of the restructuring and job cuts but said two consultancies were assessing its strategic and financial position. There has been speculation about DAF's viability after cumulative losses of £1700 million (£256 million) in the 30 months to end-June.

TVS sells film rights

TVS Entertainment, the ITV contractor that lost the franchise to broadcast to the South of England, has sold its package of film rights to the successor, Meridian Broadcasting, which takes over on January 1. TVS will receive £6.3 million cash, while Meridian will assume liabilities of up to £2.7 million attached to the rights on films such as *Licence to Kill*, *Home Alone*, *Ghostbusters II* and *Superman IV*. Shareholders will vote on December 10 on whether to allow a £45 million bid from International Family Entertainment of America to go ahead. TVS said the proceeds from the film rights are about equal to their estimated book value, taken into account in deciding to accept the IFE offer.

Half-time boost for Johnson Matthey

BY COLIN CAMPBELL

STRONG demand in America and Europe for autocatalysts, complemented by increased market share, helped Johnson Matthey lift pre-tax profits to £33.2 million (£32.2 million) in the six months to end-September.

David Davies, chairman, said the profits outcome was pleasing, considering that the recession worked against the group's precious metals and the colour and print divisions. The interim dividend is being raised by 6.7 per cent to 3.2p a share out of net earnings of 12.1p (11.5p) a share.

JM, in which Charter Consolidated has a 38 per cent interest, has signed a four-year contract with Honda to produce 1 million autocatalyst units for the American market, and has secured an order to produce 350,000 units a year in Australia for a worldwide contract with Rover group.

Mr Davies added that the long-standing exclusive marketing contract with Rustenburg of South Africa, the world's largest producer of platinum group metals, had been extended into the next century.

JM has trimmed its cost base and reduced its headcount in recent years. The precious metals division suffered in the interim period from lower rhodium and platinum prices, but gold and silver businesses achieved higher profits.

The worldwide recession shows no signs of coming to an end, Mr Davies says, though profits should respond rapidly once world economies pick up.

Meanwhile, the group continues to spend heavily on capital projects (£50 million annually) and on research and development (£20 million annually).

JM shares rose 4p to 466p.

INTERIM RESULTS FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1992

More progress from Eastern.

Statement by the Chairman and Chief Executive Dr. James Smith

"The results for the first six months of the financial year show an increase in operating profit to £31.5 million (1991-£26.0m) and a rise in profit before tax to £26.1 million (1991-£15.4m) on turnover of £830.2 million (1991-£821.7m). Earnings per share rose to 6.9p from 4.3p.

The increase in operating profit reflects the benefits of our cost reduction programmes and the continued strategic development of our portfolio of electricity purchase contracts. We also saw a useful increase in sales to the competitive non-franchise market. Profit before tax and earnings per share benefited significantly from reduced interest charges (£12.4 million compared with £16.9 million).

Electricity Business. Units distributed to commercial customers increased in the first half of the year, although those distributed to the domestic and industrial sectors fell. Overall there was a net fall of 1.9% compared with units distributed in the first half of 1991/92. However, adjusting for differences in weather conditions between the two periods and for other exceptional factors, the underlying level of units distributed was only marginally lower.

Tight control of costs remains central to our management of the business. In particular, increases in costs in distribution have again been kept below the rate of inflation. Our commitment to further cost reductions was evidenced by the announcement on 1 December that we are inviting employees aged over 50 to apply for Voluntary Early Retirement in order to reduce our total staffing numbers by 450 within the next 3 months. The announcement follows a similar scheme successfully completed in October in which some 84 employees in the Contracting Division were accepted for early retirement.

Capital expenditure has been reduced in line with a decrease in new business caused by the recession and a continued improvement in productivity. The provision of a highly reliable supply of electricity to our customers remains a priority. The review of the distribution system performance of all REC's prepared by OFFER ("Report on Distribution Transmission Performance 1991/92") showed that Eastern's distribution system has demonstrated a consistently high level of performance since privatisation.

In order to maintain and enhance the high standards of service achieved in all areas of Eastern's business, we recently announced the introduction of a Quality Drive throughout the company.

Retailing. On 31 October 1992 we were pleased to announce that Midlands Electricity will be merging its retail business with our associate electrical retailing company, E&S Retail, with effect from 1 April 1993. This will consolidate E&S's position as the third largest electrical retailer in the country. The merged business will benefit from a considerably reduced cost base and greater buying power compared with the individual positions of the three REC retail businesses that are now to be merged. Whilst the costs of establishing the joint venture mean that it will make a loss in 1992/93, the benefits referred to above position it solidly for the future.

Generation. Our two principal investments in independent generation are progressing well. Peterborough Power, which benefits from a particularly favourable gas deal, is expected to be completed within budgeted cost and on time in September 1993. The Barking station, which benefits from gas supplies on similar terms, is in the early stages of construction. In addition, Fibropower, a 12.7 MW power plant in which we have a 25% interest and which runs on poultry litter, was opened on 19 November.

Prospects. The Eastern region, as with so much of the UK, continues to face difficult economic conditions and there seems little sign of an upturn. Nonetheless, we are expecting a small growth in units distributed for the year ending 31 March 1993 and, taking into account the actions commented on earlier, are confident of achieving satisfactory results for that year. Accordingly, and taking into account our previously stated policy of paying an interim dividend representing broadly 30% of the expected full year dividend, the Directors have declared an interim dividend of 5.50p per share. The interim dividend will be paid on 23 March 1993 to shareholders on the Register at the close of business on 28 January 1993.

Group historical cost results for the six months ended 30 September 1992

	Notes	1992 £m	1991 £m	1991/92 £m
Turnover		830.2	821.7	1,878.1
Operating profit		31.5	26.0	156.9
Income from fixed asset investments	3	7.8	6.3	19.5
Net interest		(12.4)	(16.9)	(33.3)
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation		26.1	15.4	143.1
Taxation	4	(7.6)	(3.8)	(38.8)
Profit on ordinary activities after taxation		18.5	11.6	104.3
Dividends		(14.8)	(13.1)	(45.1)
Profit retained		3.7	(1.5)	59.2
Earnings per ordinary share		6.9p	4.3p	38.6p
Dividend per ordinary share		5.5p	4.85p	16.7p

	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
Group historical cost balance sheets	30 Sept 1992 £m	31 March 1991 £m
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	741.8	735.5
Investments	133.3	97.5
	875.1	833.0
Current assets	380.9	367.3
Current liabilities	(277.8)	(273.5)
Net current assets	103.1	93.8
Total assets less current liabilities	978.2	926.8
Debt and bonds (unsecured)	(168.0)	(200.0)
Provisions	(42.6)	(26.9)
Net assets	767.6	699.9
Capital and reserves		
Called up share capital	135.0	134.9
Reserves	632.6	565.0
	767.6	699.9
Net debt	142.9	241.0
Gearing	18.6%	34.4%

Notes
1 Basis of Preparation: The interim results for the six months ended 30 September 1992, which were unaudited, have been prepared on the basis of the accounting policies for the year ended 31 March 1992.

The financial information contained in this interim statement does not amount to statutory accounts within the meaning of Section 240 of the Companies Act 1985. The results for the year ended 31 March 1992 are audited from the full accounts for that year, which contain an unqualified auditor's report and have been delivered to the Registrar of Companies.

	1992 £m	1991 £m
2 Current cost adjustments:		
Historical cost profit on ordinary activities before taxation	26.1	15.4
Current cost adjustments		
Depreciation	(28.9)	(22.2)
Cost of sales	(4.3)	(4.4)
Monetary working capital	3.4	3.8
Gearing	(27.8)	(23.3)
Current cost loss on ordinary activities before taxation	(1.7)	(7.9)

3 The National Grid Holding plc: Included within profit before taxation is £7.0m interim dividend receivable from The National Grid Holding plc (1991 interim £3.3m and total for year £19.5m).

4 Taxation: Taxation for the six months ended 30 September 1992 has been provided on the basis of the estimated effective tax rate for the year ending 31 March 1993.

EASTERN
ELECTRICITY

Copies of this announcement can be obtained from the Company Secretary, Eastern Electricity plc, Wharfedale Park, P.O. Box 40, Wharfedale, Ipswich, Suffolk IP9 2AQ. For shareholder enquiries please ring 0345 959697.

US captains take aim at BA

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON
IN NEW YORK

THREE captains of America's airline industry have fired fresh shots to destroy British Airways' \$750 million alliance with USAir.

In an open letter to Sir Colin Marshall, BA's chief executive, run as a full-page advertisement in *The New York Times*, the chairmen of American, Delta and United claimed BA's plan violated American law and offered no benefit to the consumer.

Tension between the two sides has heightened in the past week as BA stepped up its public relations campaign in America through advertising and interviews between Sir Colin and influential newspapers. A US government decision on BA's alli-



Crandall: equal rights

ance with USAir is expected within 21 days.

The airline operators were retaliating against BA advertisements in which Sir Colin argued that approval for its alliance would give American

passengers a better deal through increased competition, save US jobs and assure further investments from BA in the America.

Robert Crandall of American, Ronald Allen of Delta and Stephen Wolf of United say they will withdraw their opposition to the merger once BA and the British government grant them the same rights in the UK as BA wants in America.

"We cannot imagine why the US government would give BA the right to serve 8,000 international city-to-city markets from which US carriers are excluded," they say. "The government arrangements that are part of your investment agreement give BA control over every major business decision of USAir and clearly violate US law."

THE TIMES FRIDAY DECEMBER 4 1992
Eastern
13% div
on profit

SNC pegs
payout
at 1p

Shank's warning

Snap increases

In control

Holmes drops

John Swire

Proposals sold at
Greycoat drops



COMMENT

Right priority for pension reform

The Maxwell affair showed the worst case of pension fund manipulation, which most people in the industry thought unlikely ever to happen, even if it were theoretically possible. That makes it a good test for any new system of regulation that emerges from the Goode committee. Reform should, however, concentrate on much more widespread but less extreme abuses, such as delays in handling over contributions, manipulation of trustees, and the inappropriate investment policies and withdrawal or misuse of funds by employers that can result. Such petty abuses are mainly responsible for so many employees being disappointed in the outcome of their years of saving and so many pensioners being left with the minimum of the law, or rules, allow rather than the natural proceeds of investment of a scheme's assets and contributions.

As the Prudential rightly argues, reform should therefore focus on proper and effective day-to-day regulation rather than legal rule-tightening and compensation arrangements, necessary as those are. A single regulator is needed with clear responsibility and the power to monitor what is happening in funds, investigate complaints and intervene to stop abuses. That office must be active and often be a nuisance, more like the water or electricity industry regulators than the Securities and Investments Board. That kind of regulator will also put the interests of pension scheme members at the top of the agenda, rather than mere observance of the proprieties of law and fund management.

If that is done effectively, compensation schemes should hardly be touched. To rely on a compensation scheme punishes the good scheme to help the weak. If underfunding caused by incompetence or over-optimism were to be covered by such a backstop, imprudence would perversely be encouraged.

Adrenalin drought

Green shoots of recovery have been spotted across the Atlantic by both Hanson and Grand Metropolitan, but there has been no such luck in Britain. After reporting his first-ever fall in annual pre-tax profits, Lord Hanson said his group was depending on old fashioned business virtues like self-discipline and hard work to see it through the hard times still to come — particularly in the UK where margins are predicted to become yet harder to earn next year.

Lords Hanson and White are more positive about America, where they say there are signs that the recession is levelling out. Indeed, Lord White gives the incumbent President, Bill Clinton, a pat on the back when he says Washington is showing a commitment to revive the economy which had already been kick-started by lower interest rates. The group's American operations are looking positive for Hanson, both in a recovery in trading and the boost to profits from sterling's fall against the dollar. The value of the group's dollar debt is also growing, nudging gearing up since the year-end. With a gross cash pile of £8.4 billion, Hanson can still afford to be acquisitive. That is the message their lordships are keen to convey. They say they are "constantly reviewing acquisition opportunities for growth" and extol the need for more "bolt-on purchases" such as Maninka coal and Beazer.

Hanson has been routed twice this year, by ICI and Tomkins, and is involved in an acrimonious legal battle with Costain over Hanson's attempt to buy its Australian coal business. To throw off the gloom of recession, their lordships need the flood of adrenalin from a successful bid.

Business in the colony is strong but the Hang Seng index shed 17 per cent in the first four days of this week. Lulu Yu examines the causes

It was like falling over a cliff, according to Barry Yates, a Hong Kong analyst with Asia Equity. "Every time you blinked it was another 50 points off the market. Every time you tried to rally, it got hit back."

The Hang Seng index lost 8 per cent of its value yesterday to close at 4,978, down 433 points on the session. It was the biggest one-day slump since Peking rolled the tanks into Tiananmen Square three-and-a-half years ago, and trading turnover was heavy at HK\$5.3 billion (£442 million).

So far this week, the index has shed 1,009 points, or 17 per cent, purely on the escalating political war of words between Britain and China. Apart from that, nothing has changed since the market scaled the record 6,400 level just two weeks ago.

Many agree with Sir Percy Cradock that Hong Kong is in the worst political crisis it has seen for years, and that Sino-British relations are at their lowest ebb since the Cultural Revolution in the 1960s.

This comes at a time when Hong Kong's economy is going from strength to strength, with economic growth forecast at 6 per cent for the year, inflation coming down from double digits to 9.5 per cent, low interest rates, strong corporate earnings and a booming market across the border for business investments.

Hong Kong's economic fundamentals have been hailed as the strongest in Asia, but politics continue to overshadow the market. Shares that have been investors' darlings can lose their lustre in a matter of days. This week, many firms saw their share prices battered by public perception about their earning potential in the light of the political row.

Property and bank stocks fell sharply because the property market will be the first to go if the share market crashes further. Those with China exposure, which have fared well this year, are seen as a liability in case China turns hostile. Construction firms with large, lucrative contracts are being dumped because Hong Kong's new airport and container terminal projects may be in jeopardy. Utilities face losing their franchises come 1997.

Businessmen and professional groups are panicking but Chris Patten, the colony's governor, has shown no sign of bowing to Peking's demands that his democratic blueprint for Hong Kong be scrapped. While China steps up its rhetoric everyday, Mr Patten has been equally firm in defending the British position. The conflict centres on Mr Patten's plan to broaden the electoral



China syndrome: Hong Kong's commercial future requires agreement between Peking and Britain

base for elections to Hong Kong's legislative council in 1995, and to make the legislature more powerful. The Chinese think these plans give Hong Kong a more democratic system and violate the spirit of the Basic Law, the colony's post-1997 constitution endorsed by Britain.

To Deng Xiaoping's leadership, the conflict is not confined to the electoral proposals, which many think are minor changes. As Li Peng, China's prime minister, put it: "The crux of the matter is not whether one wants democracy or not. It is whether one needs to keep one's word on the question of Hong Kong, China and Britain reaching a series of agreements." Those agreements include the 1984 Sino-British declaration, the understanding that political development in Hong Kong must conform with the Basic Law, and that Hong Kong would not build its new airport without China's approval.

China believes Whitehall is aligning with other foreign forces to try to retain the West's influence in Hong Kong after 1997. It has warned Mr Patten not to internationalise the Hong Kong issue in his overseas visits, where he has taken the opportunity to explain his proposals.

This theory gained ground as several Western governments voiced

their support for Britain. The United States, in particular, seems poised to punish China's iron-fisted treatment of Hong Kong by revoking its "most favoured nation" trade status. Senator Connie Mack, a Florida Republican, said: "If China's ultimatum on contracts is any indication of what the Hong Kong people can expect in 1997, moral men and women cannot remain silent."

Meanwhile, Hong Kong takes fright. Its market is notorious for its volatility: it suffered its first major crash in 1973, when shares lost a third of their value in a day. In October 1987, when the market reopened after a controversial four-day closure, the Hang Seng plunged by a third. During Tiananmen Square, the sell-off totalled 22 per cent. In August this year, the failed Soviet coup ripped 8 per cent in a day.

Stuart Cook, of Baring Securities, said: "After Tiananmen Square, it should be obvious to anyone that Peking will stop at nothing to suppress a domestic political challenge. Patten may not realise this. Domestic consumption would be the next casualty and in the run up to Christmas I would expect to see a drop off in sales of big-ticket

items in the stores." Simon Murray, managing director of Hutchison Whampoa, said he was confident the current political deadlock would be resolved. "This isn't the first time we have been in a bit of a bust-up with China. We have had many before. Britain, China and Hong Kong all want the same thing for Hong Kong, and that's prosperity," he said.

TS Lo, a former Hong Kong government adviser who heads a pro-China political group, urged Mr Patten to withdraw his proposals immediately. "We must be very clear that what Mr Patten is doing is extremely harmful to Hong Kong and there is no chance of a smooth transition to Chinese sovereignty if he persists in his disruptive ventures."

Marshall Byres, of Ernst & Young, the accountant, lashed out at Britain's government for changing its policy on Hong Kong and causing the colony to suffer. He said: "Britain has not given democracy to Hong Kong for 95 years. Why it chooses to do so now is extremely puzzling. The Conservative government has made many mistakes this year. This is just one of them, and Hong Kong is paying heavily for it."

He does not believe the current deadlock will be resolved, but is bullish about Hong Kong's long-

term future. "People will continue to invest in Hong Kong because they believe in China and want to invest in China," he claimed.

Kevin Snowball, of Baring Securities, was also optimistic. "If people believe China will honour the Basic Law after 1997, Hong Kong stocks have great value. If people don't believe in that, they should not be involved in the market at all."

Mr Patten is one of Hong Kong's most popular governors, but his support is clearly thinning as the political dispute widens. Caught between an angry China and a hostile business community, Mr Patten has relied on the legislature and the public for support, but many have turned against him. The only political group that still supports him is the United Democrats of Hong Kong, headed by Martin Lee, a vociferous lawyer.

Mr Patten said yesterday he was not to blame for the fall of the market and that the economy was strong enough to withstand any crash. He said: "Nobody ever made any money by betting against Hong Kong. That is a point which will be borne by a lot of people over the next few months as the profit figures for Hong Kong companies keep rolling in. The economic fundamentals in Hong Kong are probably sounder than in any other community in the world."

"We have a very well managed, very strong economy, and I think that, in the medium and long term, everything continues to be set extremely fair."

Despite Mr Patten's optimism, analysts say Hong Kong's economic fundamentals could be altered if the share market continued its downward spiral. Share prices have soared on the back of low interest rates and a thriving China trade. Savings in the bank only earn 1.5 per cent interest, while the share market has risen by nearly 50 per cent in the first 11 months.

Property used to be a sound investment until banks tightened mortgage lending to 70 per cent from 90 per cent for the small and medium flat-buyers in the middle of the year. Still, the property market has been overheated, and the stock market plunge is expected to force a painful correction.

Francis Lau, of Raine Horne & Lau, the property firm, said a number of major property transactions had been held up and further stock slides will have serious implications for residential and commercial markets. He said: "A number of large transactions have been put on hold. The market is extremely quiet. There will be a crash if stock investors start selling their properties to cover their stock positions. Commercial prices have gone up by some 30 per cent this year, but sharp falls are expected if the stock market collapses."

The colony's underlying economic strength is unquestioned. But, in the short term at least, political questions, rather than business results, are the dominant influence on Hong Kong's market sentiment.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Jumping off the gravy train

IT'S nice to see that some people are still willing to put public service before piling up more money. Graeme Odgers, chief executive of Alfred McAlpine, the contractor, is voluntarily accepting a cut in income of more than £250,000 to become the next chairman of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. He moves to the MMC in April, when his current three-year contract expires. Odgers, 58, who succeeds Sir Sydney Lipton, will forgo a salary of £309,000 and will also have to give up two non-executive directorships, each worth £15,000 to £20,000, to take the £87,000-a-year post. He previously ran the Industrial Development Unit, had a spell at Tarmac, then became group managing director of British Telecom. He left BT in 1990, after a public falling-out with Iain Vallance, who had picked him to the chairman's job. As he says, £87,000 is "a liveable salary" and his years in industry mean he does not have to look at the job "purely in terms of shekels".

Britons ahoy

SALOMON Brothers' headquarters at Victoria Plaza rang with shouts of "The Brits are coming" yesterday, when fewer than four senior British employees were told they were being promoted to the exalted title of managing director, the firm's equivalent of partner. The fortunate quartet are all in their mid-thirties and stand to earn up to £500,000 a year if they continue to perform. They are Jeremy Amias, head of fixed-income sales, Simon



Odgers: £250,000 drop

Bowden, a fixed-income arbitrageur, Paul Brewer, head of foreign exchange, and David Turnbull, head of Japanese equity sales. In all, eight employees in the London office were promoted to managing director status, a new record, which means that Europe now accounts for 23 of the firm's 130 managing directors — a far cry from the days at Salomon when, if it wasn't in New York, it didn't matter. Could this sudden burst of Anglophilia have occurred because Deryck Maughan, Salomon's chief, comes from County Durham? Perhaps, although Victoria Plaza does contribute a quarter of group profits and is on course for another record year.

Tear-jerker

THE research department at Smith New Court has done some deep thinking for its circular on Commercial Union, entitled "Onions cause tears to cry". One of the analysts explains: "Commercial Union used to be called Commercial Union when it was the poor man of the sector. Now it is not

the poor man but some brokers still think it will cut its dividend. We don't think it will and therefore the bears on the stock are going to end up crying." They are not the only ones crying, after explanations like that.

Pet language

WE all know the French *chien* does not go bow-wow or even woof-woof — he says wouf-wouf on French dog food packets. But which nation's dogs say Ao-Ao, bup-bup, vooon-vooon, auh-auh, vov-vov, gav-gav or even wo-wo? Fred Marsh, an international marketing consultant, claims to have devised the first onomatopoeia of words used to imitate the sounds of cats and dogs in advertising around the world. "The words look different but they sound increasingly similar," he maintains. Marsh yesterday gave some life-like demonstrations over the telephone. If his barking is anything to go by, the Portuguese Ao-Ao and the Catalanian bup-bup do sound close to our woof-woof. The glossary is in a report on Europe's pet food market.

Talking shops

WHEN the Christmas sales figures emerge in January, a new team will be analysing them at BZW. Research chief Bill Smith has snapped up Charles Nichols and Tony Shiret from UBS-Phillips & Drew after the departure of BZW's retail man Brian Corris. Nichols and Shiret leave the desk in the hands of Andrew Fowler, a relative newcomer, who will now be working twice as hard.

DEBRA ISAAC

BUSINESS LETTERS

Put an end to these contracts

From Sir Anthony Beaumont-Dark

Sir, Is it ever likely so many businesses run into trouble when the rewards of failure are often more than the rewards of success?

The latest example being Trafalgar House who have just reported a loss of over £30m. The two gentlemen mainly responsible for this disaster are to receive £1.9m in "compensation" for their con-

tracts — where is sense in this and where is the "compensation" for the shareholders?

I believe until three-year rolling contracts are stopped the disgraceful state of affairs that gives capitalism a bad name will never be stopped.

Yours faithfully,
SIR ANTHONY
BEAUMONT-DARK,
124 Lady Byron Lane,
Knowle, Solihull,
West Midlands.

Managing a business of no account

From Mr Guy Croft

Sir, When I read the complaints in your business section that are sent in by your (no doubt) aggrieved readers I have to suppress a wry grin. I must confess I have had my fair share of problems with the banks (most of them) in the past but nothing prepared me for the shock I got after, in a fit of pique, my last bank "manager" (TSB) served notice on me that my account was to be closed.

I discovered that owing to an adverse "credit record" I couldn't get a bank account at all! I wonder how your readers would cope with that? How I continue to do business is a closely guarded secret; suffice to say that since the majority of my trade is export, it costs me a fortune. What one's credit record can

possibly have to do with the banks when all one requires is access to the clearing system is a mystery to me, but I am sure the banks can find their usual sort of justification for this.

Suffice to say that since the privatisation of the Girobank (now a subsidiary of the Alliance and Leicester) the clearing banks have got a tidy little cartel that is not only self governing and independent, but also inaccessible to those unfortunate like me with whom, for whatever reason, they have decided they do not wish to do business.

Yours faithfully,
GUY CROFT,
Unit 2,
Keel Court,
Enterprise Close,
Medway City Estate,
Rochester,
Kent.

Mining productivity

From Mr Anthony Lilley

Sir, Your correspondent P. McNestry refers to productivity improvements of 150% in the past eight years.

That which he does not bother to mention is that for decades billions of pounds of tax-payers' money went into the mines, much of it on machinery which had no oth-

er purpose than dramatically to improve productivity.

In the event of present-day miners acquiring mines as they should surely be encouraged so to do, your correspondent will see productivity gains of 200/300 per cent, not in eight years but at once. Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY P LILLEY,
Kingsdown Park House,
Tankerton, Kent.

Severn Trent Interim Results

For the six months ended 30 September 1992

"We have continued to make steady progress in the first half, which has been marked by a significant number of operating improvements. Within the important area of customer service we were delighted to receive one of the first Charter Marks awarded under the new government scheme. The successful introduction of advanced billing systems and new technology, which delivers a faster response to customer enquiries, has had a dramatic effect in improving overall standards. Costs were carefully controlled in all areas of activity and productivity has risen."

John Bellak, Chairman, 3 December 1992

- Tight control of costs
- Big improvement in customer service levels
- Sound growth in non-regulated businesses
- Biffa sales and profits improving

	1992	1991	Increase
TURNOVER	\$459m	\$395m	16.2%
OPERATING PROFIT	\$152m	\$129m	17.3%
PROFIT BEFORE TAX	\$141m	\$137m	3.0%
EARNINGS PER SHARE	37.5p	36.5p	2.7%
INTERIM DIVIDEND	7.0p	6.4p	9.4%

These results are unaudited. A copy of the interim report will be sent to shareholders and may be obtained from: Company Secretary, Severn Trent Plc, 2308 Coventry Road, Birmingham B36 3JZ.



THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

[illegible]

Exchange index compared with 1985 was up at 80.5 (day's range 79.6-80.6).				
INTEREST RATES AND FORWARD RATES				
Rate for Dec 3				
	Range	Close	1 month	3 months
3-month	2.7497-2.7855	2.7805-2.7855	2 1/2%	1 1/4%
6-month	50.35-51.10	50.95-51.10	11-11 1/2	17-20 1/2
9-month	9.640-9.680	9.660-9.680	22 1/2	28 1/2
1-year	0.9350-0.9400	0.9355-0.9390	176	200-247 1/2
2-year	2.4439-2.4759	2.4727-2.4759	34	1 1/4%
3-year	1.9105-21.58	2.0000-21.58	780	1 1/2%
4-year	17.46-17.76	17.76-18.10	136-153 1/2	1 1/4%
5-year	214.93-218.00	217.93-218.00	13-17 1/2	1 1/2%
10-year	1.5995-2.0017	1.9991-2.0017	0.24-0.26	1 1/2%
15-year	1.5465-1.9575	1.9661-1.9675	0.60-0.90	1 1/2-2 1/2%
20-year	0.9800-1.1120	1.0120-1.2000	0.24-0.26	1 1/2%
25-year	0.3040-0.4320	0.4180-0.4320	2 1/4-3 1/4	6 1/2-7 1/2
30-year	0.0240-0.0320	0.0300-0.0370	2 1/4-3 1/4	6 1/2-7 1/2
35-year	0.16-19.52	19.50-19.52	2 1/4-3 1/4	6 1/2-7 1/2
40-year	17.15-17.47	17.41-17.47	2 1/4-3 1/4	5 1/2-7 1/2
45-year	2.1622-2.2126	2.2095-2.2126	2 1/4-3 1/4	5 1/2-7 1/2
50-year			2 1/4-3 1/4	5 1/2-7 1/2
55-year			2 1/4-3 1/4	5 1/2-7 1/2
60-year			2 1/4-3 1/4	5 1/2-7 1/2
65-year			2 1/4-3 1/4	5 1/2-7 1/2
70-year			2 1/4-3 1/4	5 1/2-7 1/2
75-year			2 1/4-3 1/4	5 1/2-7 1/2
80-year			2 1/4-3 1/4	5 1/2-7 1/2
85-year			2 1/4-3 1/4	5 1/2-7 1/2
90-year			2 1/4-3 1/4	5 1/2-7 1/2
95-year			2 1/4-3 1/4	5 1/2-7 1/2
100-year			2 1/4-3 1/4	5 1/2-7 1/2
105-year			2 1/4-3 1/4	5 1/2-7 1/2
110-year			2 1/4-3 1/4	5 1/2-7 1/2
115-year			2 1/4-3 1/4	5 1/2-7 1/2
120-year			2 1/4-3 1/4	5 1/2-7 1/2
125-year			2 1/4-3 1/4	5 1/2-7 1/2
130-year			2 1/4-3 1/4	5 1/2-7 1/2
135-year			2 1/4-3 1/4	5 1/2-7 1/2
140-year			2 1/4-3 1/4	5 1/2-7 1/2
145-year			2 1/4-3 1/4	5 1/2-7 1/2
150-year			2 1/4-3 1/4	5 1/2-7 1/2
155-year			2 1/4-3 1/4	5 1/2-7 1/2
160-year			2 1/4-3 1/4	5 1/2-7 1/2
165-year			2 1/4-3 1/4	5 1/2-7 1/2
170-year			2 1/4-3 1/4	5 1/2-7 1/2
175-year			2 1/4-3 1/4	5 1/2-7 1/2
180-year			2 1/4-3 1/4	5 1/2-7 1/2
185-year			2 1/4-3 1/4	5 1/2-7 1/2
190-year			2 1/4-3 1/4	5 1/2-7 1/2
195-year			2 1/4-3 1/4	5 1/2-7 1/2
200-year			2 1/4-3 1/4	5 1/2-7 1/2
205-year			2 1/4-3 1/4	5 1/2-7 1/2
210-year			2 1/4-3 1/4	5 1/2-7 1/2
215-year			2 1/4-3 1/4	5 1/2-7 1/2
220-year			2 1/4-3 1/4	5 1/2-7 1/2
225-year			2 1/4-3 1/4	5 1/2-7 1/2
230-year			2 1/4-3 1/4	5 1/2-7 1/2
235-year			2 1/4-3 1/4	5 1/2-7 1/2
240-year			2 1/4-3 1/4	5 1/2-7 1/2
245-year			2 1/4-3 1/4	5 1/2-7 1/2
250-year			2 1/4-3 1/4	5 1/2-7 1/2
255-year			2 1/4-3 1/4	5 1/2-7 1/2
260-year			2 1/4-3 1/4	5 1/2-7 1/2
265-year			2 1/4-3 1/4	5 1/2-7

France	7,952-8,000	France	5,372.5-5,377.5
Germany	31.52-32.38	Germany	1,571-1,578
Swiss dollar	12.12-12.13	Hong Kong	77.435-77.445
Italy	44.44-45.11	Japan	1,667.2-1,672.5
Swiss KD	0.4645-0.4715	Italy	1,667.5-1,672.5
ringgit	3.9739-3.9779	Indonesia	125.25-124.60
Malay	1.720-1.820	Malaysia	2,537.5-2,538.5
Thai baht	3.3718-3.0517	Netherlands	1,177.1-760
South African ryal	5.8105-5.8033	Norway	6.46-4.47
7.5000 dollar	2.5606-2.5699	Portugal	141.25-141.35
7.5000 dollar	7.5217-7.5871	Spain	168.15-168.40
rand (com)	4.6714-4.6826	Spain	114.25-114.75
rand (ind)	5.6975-5.7825	Sweden	1.681-1.682
Bank GTS - Liquid Sale		Switzerland	1.4851-1.404

MONEY RATES (%)					
On Clearing Banks 7 Finance Hse 8					
Market Moves: Onlight high 6 1/2					
1 Month (Day-Say): 2 mth 6 1/2; 3 mth 6 1/2. Sell: 2 mth 6 1/2; 3 mth 6 1/2.					
1 month	6 1/2-6 1/2	3 mth	6 1/2-6 1/2	6 mth	12 mth
Bank Bills Disk	6 1/2-6 1/2	6 1/2-6 1/2	6 1/2-6 1/2	6 1/2-6 1/2	6 1/2-6 1/2
Money Rate	7 1/2-7 1/2	7 1/2-7 1/2	7 1/2-7 1/2	6 1/2-6 1/2	6 1/2-6 1/2
on open 1/2, close 5	7 1/2-7 1/2	7 1/2-7 1/2	7 1/2-7 1/2	6 1/2-6 1/2	6 1/2-6 1/2
Money Depts	7	n/a	7 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2
7 1/2-7 1/2	7 1/2-7 1/2	7 1/2	6 1/2-6 1/2	6 1/2-6 1/2	6 1/2-6 1/2
3 1/2-3 1/2	3 1/2-3 1/2	3 1/2-3 1/2	3 1/2-3 1/2	4 1/2-4 1/2	4 1/2-4 1/2
Society CDs	7 1/2-7 1/2	7 1/2-7 1/2	7 1/2-7 1/2	7 1/2-7 1/2	6 1/2-6 1/2

92 Rate Sterling Spot Finance. Make-up day: Nov 30, 1992 Agreed rates
 92 to Jan 29, 1993 Scheme I: 8.71% Schemes II & III: 8.5%. Reference rate
 92 to Nov 30, 1992 Scheme IV: 8.7382 %

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)					
1 day	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth	18 mth	24 mth
3 1/2-3 1/2	4 1/2-4 1/2	5 1/2-5 1/2	6 1/2-6 1/2	7 1/2-7 1/2	8 1/2-8 1/2
9 1/2-9 1/2	10 1/2-10 1/2	11 1/2-11 1/2	12 1/2-12 1/2	13 1/2-13 1/2	14 1/2-14 1/2
10 1/2-10 1/2	11 1/2-11 1/2	12 1/2-12 1/2	13 1/2-13 1/2	14 1/2-14 1/2	15 1/2-15 1/2
11 1/2-11 1/2	12 1/2-12 1/2	13 1/2-13 1/2	14 1/2-14 1/2	15 1/2-15 1/2	16 1/2-16 1/2
12 1/2-12 1/2	13 1/2-13 1/2	14 1/2-14 1/2	15 1/2-15 1/2	16 1/2-16 1/2	17 1/2-17 1/2

GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS (BANK \$)					
Open \$335.80-336.20	Close \$335.40-335.90	High \$335.90-336.65	Low \$335.00-335.50	Settle \$335.00-335.50	Settle \$335.00-335.50
Open \$335.00-335.50	Close \$335.00-335.50	High \$335.00-335.50	Low \$335.00-335.50	Settle \$335.00-335.50	Settle \$335.00-335.50
Open \$335.00-335.50	Close \$335.00-335.50	High \$335.00-335.50	Low \$335.00-335.50	Settle \$335.00-335.50	Settle \$335.00-335.50

Portfolio Plus

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No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Amoco	Oil	1.00
2	Amoco	Oil	1.00
3	Amoco	Oil	1.00
4	Amoco	Oil	1.00
5	Amoco	Oil	1.00
6	Amoco	Oil	1.00
7	Amoco	Oil	1.00
8	Amoco	Oil	1.00
9	Amoco	Oil	1.00
10	Amoco	Oil	1.00
11	Amoco	Oil	1.00
12	Amoco	Oil	1.00
13	Amoco	Oil	1.00
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11,000 MATCH THE SHARES

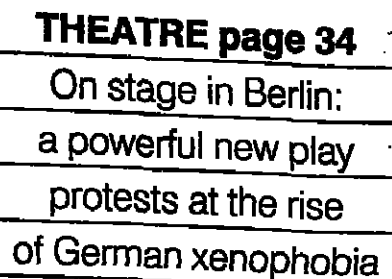
If you have ticked off your eighth share in our Match The Shares game today, claim your prize by telephoning 0254 53272 between 10.00am and 3.30pm (see the Sunday Times for full details)

There were no valid winners for yesterday's Portfolio Plus prize. The £2,000 will be added to today's game.

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ARTS

MUSICALS page 35
Kenneth MacMillan's
last dances will be at
the heart of the National
Theatre's new Carousel



**CRITIC'S CHOICE
GALLERIES**

GALLERIES: **Richard Cork** on the Cornish painter Peter Lanyon, who fused the adventurous spirit of modernism with a deep love of his native landscape

When Peter Lanyon died after a gliding accident in August 1964, British art lost one of its most adventurous modern painters. He was only 46, and he won mounting respect for his headlong attempts to develop an all-embracing response to the Cornish landscape. Based in his native St Ives, but fully aware of the revolutionary initiatives of galvanising American art, he was the least provincial of painters. But just as Constable returned again and again to the countryside of his childhood, so Lanyon remained wedded to the rocky, wind-buffed and wave-pummelled peninsula he knew best.

Now that the Tate Gallery is only months away from opening its custom-built gallery in St Ives, the art produced there during and after the second world war has become more firmly embedded in history than ever. Even so, the bracing survey of Lanyon's work at the Camden Arts Centre proves that we still have much to learn about one of the town's most distinguished painters. By juxtaposing some of his finest canvases with the far less familiar three-dimensional constructions he made throughout his career, the exhibition provokes a new reading of an artist too often taken for granted.

Lanyon, only has himself to blame for our failure, until now, to study the constructions with the attentiveness his paintings have received. "These objects are essentially throwaway things", he insisted in 1962, "and could be compared to scaffolding. They should not be confused with complete and determined works."

So was the South Bank Centre, which organised this touring show, ill-advised to exhume the constructions? After all, they look small and diffident compared with the grand-scale, swashbuckling impact of the paintings hung near by. Often held together with Bostick, these fragile clusters of wood, stone, iron, plastic, masonite and glass look as if they might disintegrate at a touch.

Against all odds, though, they had their own. Sometimes, indeed, they had freedom and conciseness which makes the weakest paintings look overworked or bluster. Always an uneven manipulator of pigment, Lanyon had originally wanted to be a sculptor. And he brought to these constructions an instinctive grasp of three-dimensional form. It is significant that the artist who impressed him most forcibly when young was a sculptor. Having arrived in St Ives in September 1939 to escape the threatened bombing of London, Naum Gabo showed Lanyon his exquisite work. Lanyon was struck by the clarity of Gabo's constructions. The next year-old never forgot the experience, declaring later that "I don't think I had ever seen an object which was so obviously right in every way, and full of poetry."

For a while, the constructions he made were heavily indebted to the older sculptor. But by the late 1940s, Lanyon realised that Gabo's

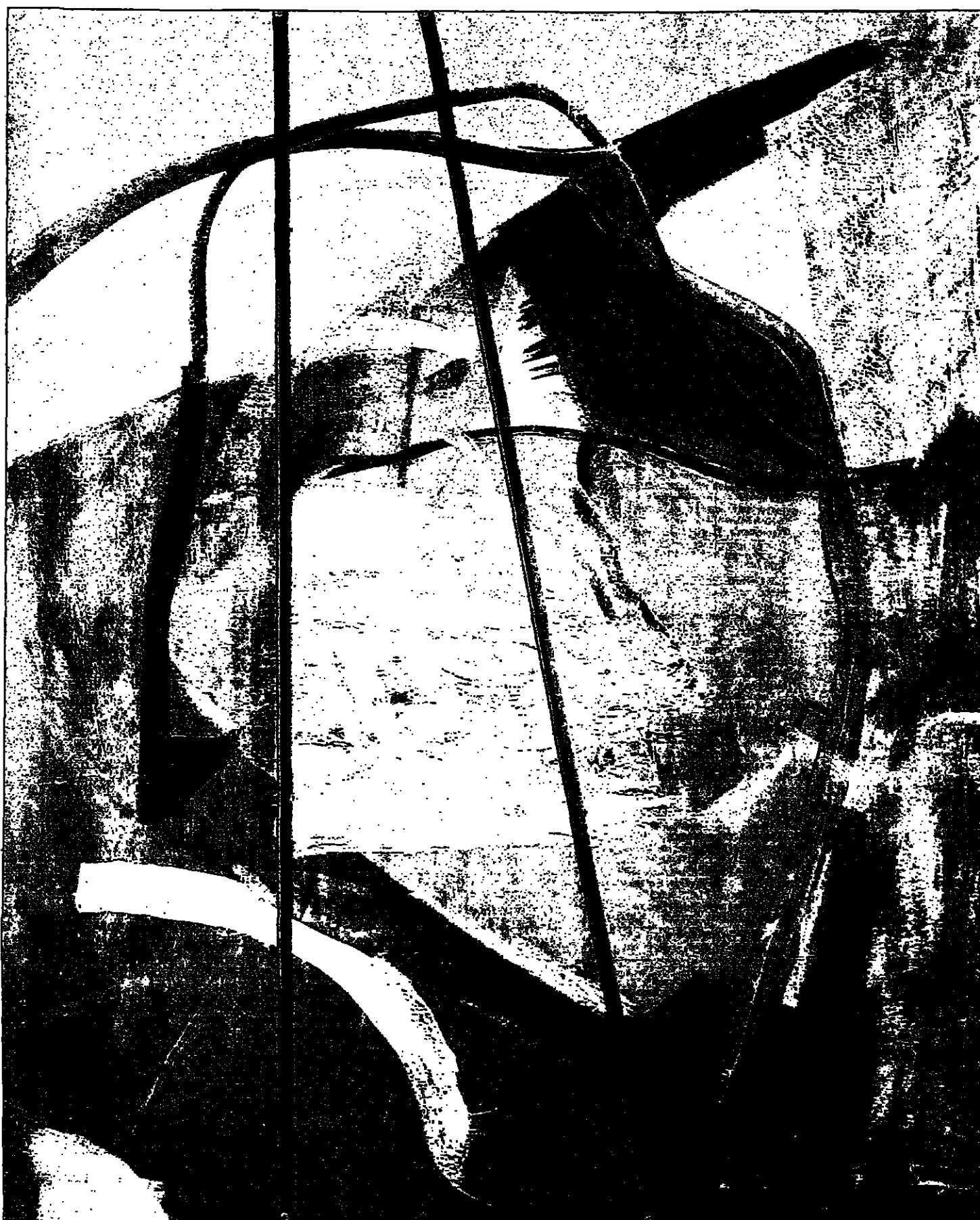
influence was paralysing. Returning to Cornwall after five years in the RAF renewed his enthusiasm for the landscape around him. He decided that Gabo's idealised and geometric abstraction was too cut off from the observable world, which nourished his own work at every turn. The poised perfection favoured by Gabo now had to be replaced, by Lanyon's view, by a rougher and more direct approach. And when the Arts Council commissioned him to produce a monumental painting for its Festival of Britain exhibition, he found that constructions played an indispensable part in the protracted evolution of the final picture.

From the half-dozen objects he made while planning the painting, *Porthleven Boats* has been selected. Made out of wood and sheet metal, which Lanyon then painted, it looks surprisingly simple and lyrical compared with the labyrinthine complexity of the picture. The principal form curves like a sail responding to the wind, and its apex is attached to the other half of the construction by a metal strip

almost as thin as rigging. The result is alert, tense and charged with movement. Its own agility must have helped to prevent Lanyon from clogging the picture with an excess of substance. For *Porthleven* is one of his most densely considered paintings, and rears up before us like a volcanic land-mass. Crowned by a teetering clock-tower defined in outlines alone, the entire structure shows how avidly Lanyon wanted to grasp the totality of a scene.

Not for him the ordered, hard-edge flatness of the abstraction practised by many of his contemporaries. He makes us aware of sculptural volume in *Porthleven*, and above all of the landscape as a living force. Figures can even be detected here, just as a colossal head may well dominate the central area of another ambitious painting called *Bojewan Farms*.

The ease with which Lanyon builds up these deceptively modest objects shows how instinctive a sculptor he was. They played an increasingly vital role in his general attempt to convey a multi-faceted view of the landscape inspired partly by Cubism but relying on a sensuous boldness of gesture more akin to the Abstract Expressionists in New York. The freedom of Lanyon's mark-making is especially clear in *Construction for St. Just*, where the sheets of glass balanced so precariously against each other are spattered and smeared with black pigment. Redolent of coal-dust, they distil Lanyon's response to the sooty mine-shafts of St. Just. In the painting, one of these shafts runs like a spine up the middle of the elongated space, culminating in two arms reminiscent of a crucifixion. But the construction seems less tragic in mood, suggesting that Lanyon rejoiced in the lightness and transparency of the glass



Painting and construction are combined in *Glide Path*, 1964, where "plastic lines track a straight course above a landscape almost suffused with scarlet exuberance". Lanyon's passion for "high places and for edges" led to his death in a gliding accident in 1964

fragments even as he stressed their vulnerability. Conscious of the fact that 31 men had been killed in a St Just mine in 1919, he doubtless felt that the frailty of this construction was appropriate to the place it memorialised.

By the time Lanyon produced his construction for a painting called *Lost Mine* in 1959, the sense of brooding tragedy had given way to dizzy excitement. The glass cluster is enlivened, now, by a slash of scarlet paint, so often used in Lanyon's later pictures to convey the adrenalin-inducing perils of gliding. Having taken to the air for the first time in that year, he joined the Cornish Gliding Club during the summer. And the loose, swirling brushwork in the *Lost Mine* painting already evokes, with great

vividness, a landscape glimpsed fitfully through clouds.

Seemingly Cornwall from the sky immeasurably extended Lanyon's grasp of the country. If references to wings may have affected the principal form in *Construction for Lost Mine*, they certainly play a part in subsequent objects like *Look Down* and *Blue Glass Airscape*. Together with paintings such as *Soaring Flight*, where a dramatic diagonal sweep of pale blue paint is partially overlaid aside to disclose land and sea far below, they transmit the exhilaration of airborne vistas with freshness and immediacy. Nor since Wadsworth painted a Vorstice picture called *A Short Flight* in 1914 had a British artist summarised the aerial vision of the world so forcefully.

But the revelation of gliding had a darker, risk-taking side as well. "My preference is for the lonely places where physical danger and challenge are met," Lanyon wrote in 1962, describing his passion "for high places and for edges." They may have encouraged him to fuse painting and construction in a work such as *Glide Path*, where plastic lines track a straight course above a landscape almost suffused with scarlet exuberance. But this heady delight also led to his death, and hindsight prompts me to see in that same scarlet a prophetic, bloody emblem of how Lanyon sacrificed his own life on the body of the country he loved.

● *Peter Lanyon continues at the Camden Arts Centre (071-435 2643) until December 20*

● **DAVID BEGBIE:** Working in wire mesh, Begbie has evolved his own distinctive form of sculpture which is highly illusionist and very expressive in its ability to summon up a detailed vision of the human body even as one, quite literally, sees through it all. Of late Begbie has been associated extensively with architects, which enables him to work on a larger scale and has produced a new way of almost invisibly suspending his sculptures. Also included: prints and monoprints on canvas.

Tower Bridge Piazza, 49 Shad Thames, SE1. Daily 11am-5pm, until January 2.

● **EDWARD STONE:** Though Edward Stone has steered clear of art techniques associated with his father, the distinguished wood-engraver Reynolds Stone, proximity to such a famous relation seems to have inhibited him slightly. His latest show of paintings suggests a final breaking-free: the medusoid interiors of mostly unpeopled rooms pulse with hidden life, the mostly French landscapes combine topographical precision with an intensely personal response to the effects of light on water.

Francis Kite Gallery, 9 Maddox St, W1 (071-499 6870) Monday-Friday 10am-6pm, Saturday 11am-5pm, until January 28.

● **ROGER MAYNE:** First famous — and on occasion notorious — for his photographs of street life in London's shums during the 1950s, Mayne has continued quietly to develop and articulate his own personal vision of the world around him. For this show some previously unseen vintage prints have been unearthed from his files. What now strikes one about the early work is that for all the documentary force of the Southern Street pictures, reality is selected and shaped with a rigorous eye for composition. The images have become not so much period as timeless.

Zelda Cheate Gallery, 8 Cecil Court, WC2 (071-836 0506) Tuesday-Saturday 10am-6pm, until January 22.

January 22.

● **PAULA REGO:** In her recent paintings and graphics Paula Rego has continued to explore the borderline between the superficial cuteness of the fairytale and the sinister vision of the world which *generally lies just beneath the surface*. The centrepiece of this new exhibition consists of work inspired by a commission to illustrate *Peter Pan* for the Folio Society. Other material includes some from Rego's native Portugal, dragged from her unconscious on a recent visit.

Marlborough Fine Art, 6 Albermarle St. W1 (071-629 5161)
Monday-Friday 10am-5.30pm.
Saturday 10am-12.30pm. until January 30.

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Bent on wiping out the child population: Dorothy Ann Gould leads the witches in David Wood's adaptation of Roald Dahl

THEATRE: Benedict Nightingale has a terrifyingly good time

Perfect for little horrors

Is it all the horrors on television, or regular visits to the London Dungeon, or the evolutionary effects of the Thatcher era? Whatever the reason, children certainly seem to have tougher imaginative hides these days. The *Witches* would have terrified me when I was seven or eight, and I suspect it would have disconcerted my own progeny, one of whom I had to take on the *Too Sooty Show* when a black-hatted crone began to harass the glove-puppet from her broomstick. But the tots around me at the Duke of York's sat through much more plausible terrors with the imperturbability of *tricotouses* at the gullotine.

David Wood's adaptation of Roald Dahl's variation on the Hansel and Gretel myth begins robustly, with the boy-hero's parents being killed in a noisy offstage car-crash. It continues with his clear-smoking grandmother telling him tall tales of witches. They wear gloves to conceal their claws and wigs to hide their bald, scratched heads. Their saliva is blue. They make a profession of squashing and squelching children.

The Witches Duke of York

which the boy (Karen Briffett) and his granny (Janet Whiteside) are taking a holiday. Who are all those gloved, bewigged ladies squawking and squealing in the bedroom? It appears to be a competition for Edna Everage lookalikes, but it is, as it turns out, a convention of witches plotting to destroy the child population of Britain. Their leader — Dorothy Ann Gould, complete with a snarling Nazi accent, red-and-black accessories and a face like a voodoo priestess — proceeds to launch the campaign by turning our hero into a mouse.

He says that way, too, even after he has stolen the witches' poison and fed it into their pea soup. However, he and his granny find comfort in the thought that their life-expectancy is now roughly the same and their deaths therefore should be more or less simultaneous. "It doesn't matter who you are or what you look like as long as someone loves you," he adds in what is, I think, the only sentence

tious or sentimental moment in a refreshingly abrasive evening.

The production, directed by David Wood, has its humorous moments: fun with the "one-eye-view" of the human and a human's eye-view of mice; a fat boy who gorges himself on what he now gains because of a "spitting white" and a tall, thin, knob-knuckled giant substituting their spit for gravy. But that is comic relief only. For all their bright clothes and tea-party jabber, the hags themselves are sufficiently sinister, and seriously enough treated, to annoy the sort of people who regard the very word "witch" as a patriarchal slur on women. It is a politically most uncorrect play, marked by Szeism, smellism, baldism and shortism, as well as lots of sexism and witchism.

That is fine by me, as it seemed to be by the pre-pubescent in my vicinity, who took everything in their stride, even Gould's ferocious face magnified six or seven times for mouse-hunting purposes. In fact, the evening suggests that our children are a lot less wet than some of those writing for them suppose. What next, Jack the Ripper meets Cinderella? I don't see why not.

THEATRE: Debra Craine on the National Theatre's dance-led production of the musical *Carousel*

Taking steps to tell us a story

In 1951, Anna invited the King of Siam to polka with "Shall We Dance?" Five years later, a giddy Eliza Doolittle burst into song with "I Could Have Danced All Night". And dance they did, for those were the days of the dancing Broadway musical. Today we have *Phantom of the Opera*, *Les Misérables* and *Miss Saigon* — and the dancing has all but stopped.

Next week, National Theatre director Nicholas Hytner is hoping to get it moving again with his new production of *Carousel*, the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical which has not been professionally performed in London for more than 40 years. Hytner's only previous musical is *Miss Saigon*, which is still running in the West End after three years. Yet in spite of its enormous success, Hytner believes the 1945 *Carousel* represents the "acme of modernity" compared with the musicals of 1992.

"There's something terribly adventurous in a show which sometimes tells a story in song, sometimes in words, sometimes in dance," he says. "In terms of form, *Carousel* is far more adventurous than any of the current West End musicals where everyone sings everything and that's easily assimilated."

"People nowadays don't write musicals with a dance content so there's nothing in the West End in which dance is used as narrative. There are musicals with dance routines but the idea of narrative dance, the idea that dance might carry the story forward, might add to the psychological development, is completely alien to the contemporary musical and I think sadly so."

Hytner hopes *Carousel* will inspire a rethink: "I would like to think there might be writers, composers, who might start to wonder — again — about the expressive power of dance and the potential of the show where dance, song and talk carry an equal burden."

His argument is considerably strengthened by his decision to turn to Sir Kenneth MacMillan, principal choreographer of the Royal Ballet, for the dance element. MacMillan died on October 29 during the opening night of his *Mayerling* revival at the Royal Opera House, but by then, he had virtually finished work on *Carousel*.

The practice of using ballet choreographers in musicals is nothing new, from Agnes de Mille — who effectively created the dancing



A scene from the National Theatre's production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Carousel*, the final choreographic project of the late Sir Kenneth MacMillan

musical with *Oklahoma!* in 1943 and choreographed the original *Carousel* — to Jerome Robbins (*The King and I*, *West Side Story*). MacMillan had choreographed for the theatre before — John Osborne's *The World of Paul Slickey*, a flop in 1959. But what attracted Hytner were the ballets.

"Of all the choreographers whose work I've seen, he's always been the one who has excited me the most because his choreography seems most to do with the interaction of real people and the exploration of real emotion. And it's to do with sex, and its fantastically lyrical but also very abrasive."

"Kenneth's ballets stir up feelings and address our conscious self in a way which none of the work that happens here does. A lot of Kenneth's work strikes at the heart of our relationship with the world in a way that a spoken play never can because it operates far less rationally... Kenneth completely understood the connection between

passion and pain — that's what his ballets are about."

Such qualities in the choreographer made a natural pairing with the source material, Ferenc Molnár's play *Liliom*, which chronicles a destructive love affair between two social misfits: a fairground barker and a local factory girl. Its musical adapters transposed the story from Molnár's Budapest to a fishing village in late 19th-century Maine, and gave it a famously optimistic ending; otherwise they remained true to the original.

"A quiet, rather strange, reserved New England girl becomes physically obsessed with a fairground lad, a bit of rough trade," Hytner says. "Neither can express their affection; they're both dark, distressed, alienated individuals who carry around huge dark areas of pain. He hears her, he attempts murder which goes wrong so he kills himself."

"When he sees his daughter about to run off with another piece

of rough trade just like him he hits her, too. It gets very disturbing. You have to ask why women stay with men who hit them and whether it's possible for a man who hits a woman to be not thoroughly bad."

MacMillan explored these themes in five danced scenes, from the prologue to the large 12-minute dance sequence in the second half, using an ensemble of 24 dancers and singers, plus ballet dancers Bonnie Moore, Stanislaw Tchassov and Simon Rice. Because none of the original dance arrangements are on record, says Hytner, "we've forged ahead with a rather seedy, more realistic, more painful version."

"Fifty years on you can say things that you couldn't say in 1945 because you weren't allowed. The whole production is saying things you couldn't say in 1945 because it is a musical about sexual obsession, about this terrible link between

passion and violence. All those things can be much more honestly approached and much more earthily approached now."

Those who know the musical only from its enduring song, "You'll Never Walk Alone", or from the 1956 film version will be surprised by Hytner's unsentimental approach. "It's a terrible film: this is not a quaint musical. The vilest thing to do to it would be to present it as a sentimental, foot-tapping Broadway show because that would be to exploit these issues."

Carousel, which opens next Thursday, is the first fruit of the £1 million donation from the Carnegie Foundation, given to the National to be put toward staging "classic" musicals. The second will be *Sweeney Todd*, directed by Debra Craine.

The National's track record on musicals is mixed: 1982's hugely successful *Gypsies* and *Dolls* was

followed a year later by the disaster of *Sean Seberg*; then came a seven-year gap before *Sondheim's Sunday in the Park with George*. But Hytner is convinced the National is the right place to stage *Carousel*.

"One of the reasons why it has to be done here and not in the West End is because we have the facilities and the application to make sure that musical and choreographic standards are as high as they possibly can be. If you're doing it in a big theatre in the West End, you've got to make it very loud and very vulgar."

The man who put a helicopter on the stage in *Miss Saigon* has had a change of heart. "I'm not really interested anymore in how exciting it is to get from one scene to the next. And I am not really interested in doing a musical again which doesn't have a large dance element."

● *Carousel* is in preview at the Lyttelton, National Theatre, SE1 (071-928 2252) and opens next Thursday

TELEVISION

A sense of anti-climax

THE challenge was a mighty one: make sex uninteresting. Bad writers over the centuries have proved this task difficult, but in *The Truth About Sex* (BBC 2), the Wellcome Trust and the BBC rose magnificently to the occasion.

They wrapped the whole subject in a white coat, armed it with a clipboard, and sent it out flying the flag of science. Short of enveloping every television set in the country in a giant condom, there could be no more certain way of taking the tit out of titillation. This was deadly serious stuff, even if the humour of the subject couldn't fail to break through from time to time.

Personally, I find it impossible to watch *Masters & Johnson*, American pioneers of anatomical exactitude in matters of sex, without a chuckle. Last night they were on fine form, as *Horizon* prefaced its analysis of the Wellcome Trust sex survey by re-examining past efforts. Kinsey, it turns out, was an inveterate collector. He started out by gathering thousands of gall wasps, much as others might note down train numbers. When entomology palled, he turned to art, books, photographs, and facts about sex. Had he lived longer he would have given us 13 volumes on the subject, all full of fantastic exaggerations. He relied on volunteers, and we all know what to expect from people who volunteer to tell you about their sex lives.

June Reinisch of the Kinsey Institute provided a glimpse of Kinsey's collection of erotic objects d'art. The earliest dated from 3,200 BC and showed two ancient Egyptians embracing. "Look at their faces — it's so cute," said June. Not half as cute as the all-woman team on the British sex survey as they discussed whether to use the word masturbation in their questionnaire. In the end, they decided not to. "People don't like the word," said one of them redundantly.

The British survey appears to have been admirably conducted. Its results should puncture some of the wilder Kinsey claims — had they been true, as Kinsey himself admitted, "85 per cent of us ought to be in jail, and the other 15 per cent are anaemic" — but watching softly spoken social researchers about their business is hardly gripping television, especially when the commentary is spoken by Julie Stevenson in the manner of a nurse offering a bedpan. One of the interviewers, calling at a series of random addresses, found herself in a brothel. A prostitute said she was bored with the subject and didn't want to discuss it. Other people were willing, ready to discuss their sexual affairs than they would their financial affairs.

There are still virgins at large, though not many: only one per cent of the over-45s can confess to having had no sexual partner. The most striking finding to me was that only one in 70 men admitted to having engaged in homosexual acts in the past five years, a figure that puts both Kinsey and some of the gay rights activists in context. "Facts" like these are worth gathering, even if they do no more than confirm what we might have guessed. But it's a pity that the fear of censorship forced *Horizon* to be quite so po-faced about them.

NIGEL HAWKES

ROCK: David Sinclair enjoys watching a Rolling Stone who takes his 'solo' activities seriously

In his own time

right from the opening bars of "Take It So Hard". Together for three albums, they have built a rapport which goes way beyond that of backing group and star. The key to their sound was the rhythm section of drummer Steve Jordan and bassist Charley Drayton, whose dynamic flair and rock solid feel provided the perfect setting for Richards's sparse, chiming guitar riffs.

Sparring with Richards in the front line were guitarist Waddy Wachel and saxophonist Bobby

Keith Richards
Marquee

Keys — an old
Stones acolyte.

The push and tug of numbers such as "Wicked As It Seems", "Big Enough" and "Will But You Won't" was set against more reflective material including the Motown pastiche "Hate It When You Leave" and the gently wistful "Yap Yap". Even allowing for his rather random way with a tune, his voice lacked presence on this occasion, and some of the songs ("999", "Bodytalk") came across as little more than sluggish grooves in search of a melody to mug.

Fortunately there was strong vocal support, both from the rest of the band (notably on the chorus of the "Too Rude") and from backing singers Babi Floyd and Sarah Dash, who took the lead for a moving rendition of "Time Is On My Side". Along with his keynote song, "Happy", the only other item from the Stones' canon was "Gimme Shelter", delivered with a menacingly measured panache.

Richards conveyed a sense of unalloyed pleasure in his work. Like his songs, which often seem tangled, but are actually disciplined by a strange internal logic, Richards has ordered his life in a frighteningly haphazard way. But as his lined face cracked another huge grin you felt he had still achieved the desired result.

NIGEL HAWKES



Keith Richards: as a singer, he makes an excellent guitarist

OPERA: Hilary Finch and Rodney Milnes on two London performances

Commendably unextravagant

Fidelio
Festival Hall

AS THE drama of *Fidelio* is in essence inner and spiritual rather than outward and physical, it would seem the ideal opera for concert performance. The appearance of pallid, stooping figures add almost nothing to the vision of light portrayed in Beethoven's music as the prisoners emerge into the spring sunshine. Florestan and Leonore's own reconciliation and salvation is apprehended most fully through the ears rather than the eyes.

Yet an opera which, like Beethoven's Choral Symphony, often aspires too high for mere human grasp, makes its demands felt even more ruthlessly when there is no staging to distract. This was the challenge taken on by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and Chorus under Andrew Litton.

They seemed uneasy about two things. Anxious that their audience (despite full printed dialogue and synopsis) might not grasp quite what was going on, they shot a barrage of superlatives above the stage. These regularly undercut Beethoven's score.

Less than confident, too, in Beethoven's own musical stage management, the soloists seemed uncertain about just how demurely-staged this *Fidelio* should be. With the women in evening dress and the men in casual black, and with movement somewhat arbitrary and inconsistent, another opportunity for purely musical focus was lost.

This was a pity, because although this did not approach a

great performance, it was a conscientiously good one. Litton tried hard to instil some sense of urgency and occasion into his players.

The cast, though individually uneven, was secure and pleasing enough in ensemble. The benevolent Alan Ope was curiously cast as the evil Don Pizarro, Matthew Best imaginatively chosen as Don Fernando. Donald McIntyre, substituting for Willard White, was a pleasant surprise as Rocco. Edward Cook, making his British debut from the United States, disappointing as a dry and syllabic Florestan. His saviour, in more ways than one, was Jane Eaglen's magnificent Leonore: as true, radiant and indomitable in voice as in character.

H. F.

Così fan tutte
RCM, Britten Theatre

EVERYTHING moves in cycles. Once upon a time the Arts Council funded a body called Opera for All, which took piano-accompanied performances to schools and church halls the length and breadth of the British Isles. In 1979 it was replaced by Opera 80, which toured orchestral accompaniment performances to fewer places and fewer people. Clontar Opera Farm, the Cheshire postgraduate training establishment through whose portals many of the big names in British opera have passed, has sensed a gap and filled it with Clontar Opera for All. It has no Arts Council grant, though, and made its first London appearance

on Tuesday in a fund-raising gala at the Royal College of Music's Britten Theatre.

In one sense, this was international opera: the cast of *Così* was made up of two Swedes, two Australians, one Pole and one Briton. I spent much of the evening pondering how the performance would go down with a young, unoperatic audience. They might have found Patrick Libby's production a little homespun, an impression strengthened by the ancient and uncredited translation. They might also have found the action difficult to follow because the score was cut to one hour and 45 minutes playing time, which had a reductive effect on the progress of the plot.

But the vocal performances reminded one that Clontar Opera Farm has a distinguished team of coaches and répétiteurs. The singing was for the most part careful, shapely and considered. The voices of Susannah Glanville (Fiordiligi) and the Swedish mezzo Katarina Karnes (Dorabella, in perfect English) blended beautifully, and both should go far. I also liked the Guglielmo of Simon Thorpe, a Guildhall School alumnus who really sings words, and integrates them into elegant musical lines. Julian Gavin (Ferrando) and Benon Maliszewski (Alfonso) had problems with pitch that might have been less exposed with orchestral backing, and Katarina Piloni (Despina) was left with too little to do, but did it nicely. Wyn Davies was the accompanist. A worthy venture, then, but they still have some way to go before they attain the standards of the old Opera for All.

R. M.

JAZZ: Clive Davis goes club-hopping around London in search of fusion music

Loud but not clear

David Sanborn
Town and Country

around the time of the *Another Hand* album, he was dabbling with a more cerebral brand of straight-ahead jazz. He never sounded quite at ease in that role, and now he and his producer Marcus Miller have switched back to party mode. The new release, *Uppfront*, returns to precision-engineered funk grooves, and throws in a cover version of Ornette Coleman's "Ramblin'" for good measure. Sanborn is not your average, take-the-money-and-run crossover hack, but that busy alto tone — all primary colours and no shade — soon grows tiresome.


You might enjoy more, as I did.



David Sanborn: his alto-saxophone sound can prove wearing

to hear every last detail of Norman Hedman's ample percussion kit. The energy levels may well be higher by the end of the residency.

The evening was redeemed by the performance of Tina May in the interval set. Part of the new crop of British singers, May possesses a classical pedigree, an unusually varied repertoire and works with a first-rate band featuring David Newton on piano, Clark Tracey on drums and Dave Green on bass. Newton, in particular, is an exceptionally sympathetic accompanist. Claire Martin, the most promising new singer of them all, takes the support slot next week, opposite the saxophonist Art Porter.



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Serving the client with the facts on tap

One piece of jargon commonly heard in the world of computers today is "client-server" systems. This is essentially a straightforward idea whereby large computers are replaced by groups of desktop computers and "servers" — powerful but much smaller centralised machines that supply certain services, information and software to their "clients" using a desktop.

"Data within a company is like water," says Patric Chang, a senior consultant at KPMG Management Consulting. "The secret of a successful client-server project is to set up channels to get the water to the right people at the right time."

However, there are dangers. Unlike conventional computer systems, the client-server equivalent tends to be a much more technically complex beast. And as with every other computer system, the approach must be business-driven for it to work efficiently. Information technology departments have to become more responsive to the requirements of the business by properly managing new software development and delivery.

Client-server technology can give business a vital edge in today's tough trading environment, Clive Couldwell reports

ing applications more quickly.

This is where groupware comes in — the name being given to a new breed of software program. It is based on the principle that the structure of work is really done on a network of subtle and informal relationships, not in formal channels or hierarchies.

Groupware is being promoted as the glue that holds client-server computing together and allows people, no matter where they are or what they are doing, to create, organise, access and share information — such as text, spreadsheets, graphics and scanned images — to achieve the best business results, all using personal computers.

Arco British, the subsidiary of a Texas-based oil company, uses a Lotus Notes groupware program running on a number of Compaq servers, which shuffle vital information from one site to another. "We see this as a crucial business function, primarily for documents,

tion," says Ron Vaz, systems consultant for Arco. "If there is a disaster, we have to provide information from a long way back to support decision-making."

Therein lies the rub. Client-server computing is about making data accessible. One of the greatest worries for anybody moving to client-server is how to move data as smoothly as possible from one configuration to another.

There are tools available that help," Mr Chang says. "But it is important to have people working on the project who have experience of getting it right."

"This type of computing does open up a range of opportunities that conventional applications do not. However, it is no different from any other development: just make sure the business case is sound," says Mike Beral, the product marketing manager at LBMS, a software company that specialises in client-server projects.

"Client-server computing has come a long way since it was first thought of a few years ago," says George Colony, the president of Forrester Research, an American market-research company. He says it has become one of the fastest-growing segments of the computer industry.

"Until the past year, the lack of software tools and limited hardware offerings have kept it in the closet. Now companies have the infrastructure in place to begin adopting the technology," he says.

Three developments have contributed to the growth of client-server computing: graphical software, which makes software programs easier to use; downsizing — the replacement of large computers with cheaper, smaller, equally powerful ones; and PC networks, which the large numbers of small computers together so they can exchange information.

But is this yet another play by the computer suppliers to sell more machines and software? The answer is "maybe", although the benefits in places where client-server set-ups work well can be enormous.

Many companies, for example,



Ron Vaz "If there is a disaster, we have to provide information to support decision-making"

still cannot use their computer systems to tap the vast body of knowledge they have accumulated because the bulk of it is simply not readily available. Some computer systems cannot manage all this information and provide users with timely access to it at the same time.

The nature of today's trading environment demands a more sophisticated use of information. It is no longer enough to look up quickly the name, address and telephone number of a supplier or customer. To stay one step ahead of the competition, access to other

snippets of information held in a number of files is fast becoming a compulsory discipline.

Used wisely, a client-server operation can change the way a company does business by providing access to these islands of information, no matter where they may be.

Cheaper nets, bigger catches

Networks to link personal computers have grown at such a pace that they have taken both suppliers and the traditional data-processing world by surprise.

Originally, such networks were introduced so that a group of users could share expensive, but only infrequently used, resources such as printers.

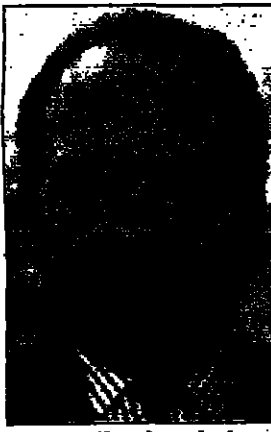
In 1987, six years after the launch of the IBM PC, the average PC network connected between five and nine machines.

Now there are plenty of networks that span the world and connect hundreds of machines. Novell, the market leader in PC networking, estimates that nearly half its revenue comes from networks of between 50 and 250 users. Part of the growth is

the speed and capacity to handle and store large amounts of data — to connect more than 4,000 PCs.

"We took a decision four years ago to replace all our word-processing technology and we had the choice of either getting everyone a PC or going to a networked system with servers and diskless PCs," says Steve Davies, the information technology support manager for Price Waterhouse.

Initially, the network was introduced solely for the use of the company's 1,100 word-processing staff, but gradually it has been extended from a simple device to share expensive resources to cover other sectors such as electronic mail. For large companies such as Price Waterhouse there is the advantage of having in-



Steve Davies' choice

house staff to oversee the technical side of installing such networks. But PC networks are now more available for small companies as suppliers make smaller versions. Mr Davies says, "When we put our network in, it was a 100-user licence or nothing. Now you can get a five-user licence," he says.

The falling price of PCs has helped. "Less than a year ago we were paying £1,000 for a Taiwanese clone machine. Today we can get a 486 machine for the price," he says.

SEAN HALLAHAN

No need to get in a tangle

The need for networks to be carefully managed has long been accepted by users of large computers. Sean Hallahan writes. But it is only in the past few years that users of personal computers have begun to realise that networks do not run themselves and that their failure can be as damaging to a business as a computer breakdown.

Yet, while personal computers are fairly easy to use, the networks connecting them tend to be far more complex. The problems are often compounded where networks were installed on a haphazard basis and gradually added to over the years.

Planning the orderly running of a network has often come a poor second to adding another personal computer or printer to a network.

Tools such as network analysers — electronic devices that monitor the system and highlight faults — are only a partial answer, according to David Cuthbertson, a partner with Kenson Data Services, a company which offers consultancy on network problems.

"It does not actually matter what tools you have, they are still just tools. You need to understand the network, what is on it and what it is doing.

Most faults can be avoided with planning," he says.

The most common problems with networks tend to be simple ones with the cables connecting the system together, especially when they are not well protected. "The cabling is out there in the user area, and it gets damaged very easily. You cannot trust someone running a vacuum cleaner over the floor to respect a cable," Mr Cuthbertson says.

The second most likely cause of faults is with bridges and routers — communications devices on the network — and often because the wrong type of device has been installed on the system.

Finally the people who use the system can unwittingly cause problems. Mr Cuthbertson cites the case of a large City institution using networked workstations. At three o'clock every day one dealer finished work and played a game of golf on his system. Unfortunately the network adaptor card and the video adaptor card — necessary to play the game — overlapped in certain areas. "The result was that as soon as the dealer made a shot in the game a huge burst of traffic was sent around the network slowing down all the machines," he says.

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MOTORING

At last, the electric car that keeps going

The search for the alternative vehicle that uses safe power may be over, says
Vaughan Freeman

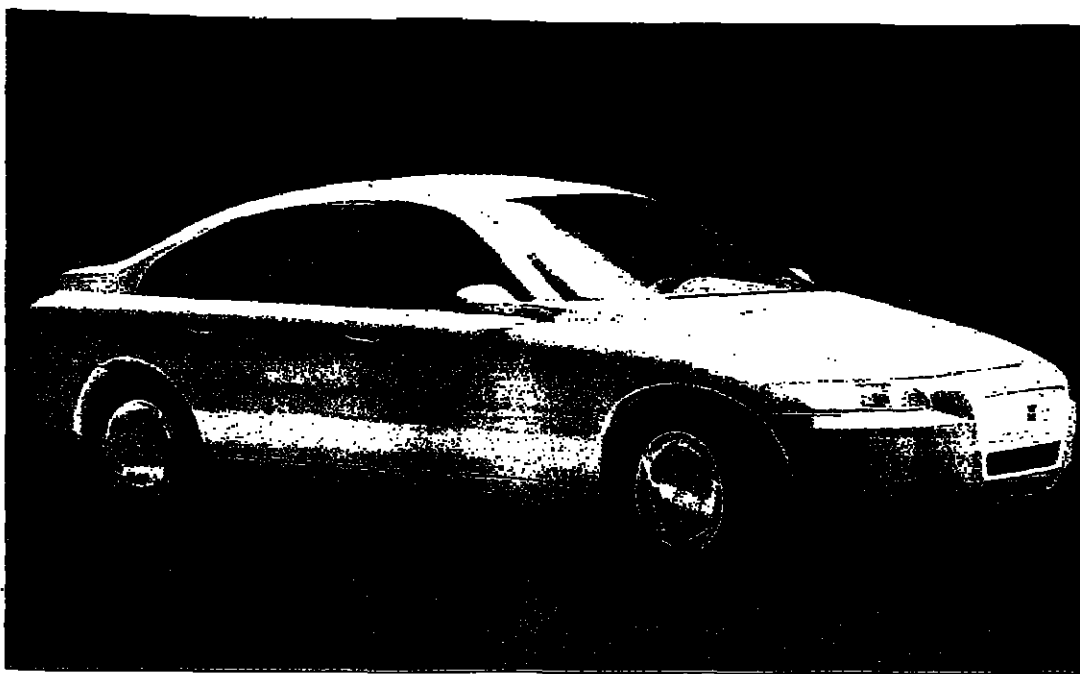
In the continuing hunt for an alternative fuel that will prove less environmentally damaging than petrol or diesel, car manufacturers have flirted with everything from natural gas to steam. However, these alternatives have been discarded again and again as impractical and engineers turn repeatedly to electric power, which, despite feeble performance and limited range, provides environmentally clean transport, free of exhaust gases.

The main problem with battery-powered cars is the restricted range, usually about 40 miles. In a conventional petrol or diesel-powered car, that would represent just a quarter of a tank of fuel. Most of us feel a tightening of the throat once the fuel gauge in our petrol or diesel-powered car drops below the quarter full mark and at that point driving becomes a hunt at a snail's pace for the nearest forecourt. Only the foolhardy would contemplate starting a journey with so little in reserve.

Now, Volvo, the Swedish car-maker, has produced a revolutionary car, a real working prototype, rather than a fantasy, that successfully combines electric power with a gas turbine unit.

Volvo has been developing gas turbines since 1986, and the Environmental Concept Car is a working test-bed, incorporating all the latest thinking on what environmentally sound, yet usable, vehicles might be like in about ten years' time.

The result is a hybrid that offers totally pollution-free motoring in town, a range of 400 miles, and high-speed motorway motoring



Is this the vehicle of the future? Volvo's revolutionary concept car, a genuine working prototype

when required, all with performance to match that of today's cars.

The car, which rolled out of the company's Gothenburg headquarters last week, is an exciting-looking saloon that can seat five. Although it is clearly a car of tomorrow, it is without the sort of *Star Trek* styling to which most manufacturers seem

per cent more than regular tyres, so adding to fuel economy and environmental acceptability.

Inside, the seats are of leather, the doors are trimmed imaginatively with cork, and the dashboard is trimmed not with Swedish birch but with Swedish birch that is in plentiful supply.

The huge advantage of the vehicle is that, while it is on the move, the gas turbine, together with energy stored from braking, is recharging the batteries on board, so that they never need to go flat even if the car is in continuous use.

To start the car, the driver turns the key, and the batteries on board fire up the gas turbine, which takes about 30 seconds. The car sounds like an earthbound jet fighter as the turbine whistles and whines into action, the most disconcerting piece of instrumentation on display being a rev counter for the turbine that registers up to 100,000rpm. The turbine idles at about 50,000rpm and reaches 75,000

rpm when the car is on the move. Where the gear stick should be, there are three buttons and a dial. To select a power source, press one of the three buttons—marked "electric", "hybrid" or "turbine". Then turn the dial, which is marked, like the gears on a conventional automatic-drive car, with "park", "reverse", "neutral" and "drive", plus a low gear for extra pulling power.

Starting in electric mode, the vehicle pulls away from rest slowly, with a total absence of any noise, vibration or rattle, and of course, no exhaust emissions. Gradually, it picks up to a maximum speed of about 50mph in 25 seconds or so.

Another first with the car is its "fly by wire" technique. This means that the brake and accelerator pedals have no mechanical link to the engine. They only pass electronic messages to the car's computer, which passes on instructions to speed up or slow down.

All this makes for a slightly

detached feeling, with little direct involvement in the driving, especially as there is no noise or vibration from the engine. The prototype's unusual quietness leads you to realise just how valuable a driving aid noise can be in gauging how a car is performing.

When engaged, the diesel-powered gas turbine drives a high-speed generator which takes over from the batteries to drive the car through the electric motor.

With the turbine in use, the car is able to attain its 400-mile range, as well as a top speed respectively exceeding 100mph. The turbine is highly efficient and economical. Diesel is accepted as a "greener" fuel than petrol. With the turbine working, the car is still quiet and there is no vibration, though the ride is accompanied with the whistling whine one normally associates with Gatwick or Heathrow.

Using the latest computer techniques in the design, Peter Horbury, Volvo's British design



Inside the innovation: leather seats, doors trimmed with cork, dashboard with Swedish birch

director, and his team translated the car from initial drawings to a fully working prototype in less than a year. It is, Mr Horbury says, a realistic vehicle to be driven within a decade. He says: "We wanted to build a car that is not a Dan Dare spaceship hovering above ground."

"This is a car that can go

'Designers must match public expectations with vehicles that meet stringent standards'

shopping, that is recognisable, yet is environmentally friendly, and believable. Our research showed that people in ten or 15 years' time will still want cars that are, above all, safe, that they are happy to have their families in, that offer performance while being environmentally friendly, and which they are proud to own."

He suggests motorists might consider owning the sort of plastic two-seat vehicles that some manufacturers propose as future cars, but in reality, the public's demands will not have changed greatly in the next ten years.

Mr Horbury says designers and manufacturers must match these expectations with vehicles that will be within increasingly stringent legislation that demands drastic reduction in emissions. In some places, such as California, a proportion of cars will have to make zero emissions within the decade.

The clear drawback to Volvo's prototype is that the batteries used are extremely expensive, adding \$20,000 (nearly £14,000) to the cost of the vehicle, though Volvo and other manufacturers are working on alternatives to the expensive and heavy (350kg) nickel cadmium batteries now in use. It is clear, though, that the Volvo Environmental Concept Car is on the right road towards pollution-free motoring.

Motor fraud costing £19 million a year has prompted calls for new documentation

Drive for good deeds could avoid trouble

The car sales trade has launched a campaign to have title deeds introduced for all cars sold in Britain.

At present, cars which cost as much as a small home can be bought and sold with all the legal documentation of a loaf of bread. This has allowed an increasing amount of fraud, worth many millions of pounds, and made victims of thousands of private motorists and retail dealers.

The present registration document has details of the vehicle, such as colour, engine size, make, and so forth, as well as the listed user and previous users. Crucially, it is not a legal document. David Evans, legal and international affairs director at the Retail Motor Industry Federation, says it must either be amended, or a new document introduced, which shows the registered owner and indicates any financial interest that others, such as a finance house, have in the vehicle.

Among the supporters of the title deed scheme are the Society

of Motor Auctions, the Retail Motor Industry Federation, Hire Purchase Information and the Leasing and Finance Association.

The proposed new deed, similar to that for a house, would be with the car from the moment it left the showroom to its final parking place in a crusher or recycling unit. It would go some way to stemming car fraud.

The latest development in motor fraud lies in the growth of vehicle transfer agencies. These agencies take the cars in exchange for taking on the motorist's outstanding financial burden on the vehicle.

However, according to statistics

from the Finance and Leasing Association (FLA), 90 per cent of motorists who turn to such agencies, having lost their car, discover they are still responsible for payments when the vehicle and the agency promptly disappear. This scam has been worth £8 million in the past year.

FLA members have reported more than 4,500 car frauds of all kinds in the past year, worth almost £19 million. Hire Purchase Information, a central registry supplying information to police, insurance firms and dealers, and now to the public, says the problem is even bigger.

Between one-quarter and one-

sixth of all cars sold privately have financial agreements outstanding on them, while one in a hundred cars sold privately is stolen. For the victim, it can be a terrible dilemma.

At best, this is a legal grey area that will cost the car's new owner sleepless nights. At worst, the car may have to be returned to the finance house or the rightful owner with no recompense to the unwary purchaser.

The supporters of the title deed idea say it would make frauds harder: no deed, no sale. Would-be purchasers could insist on knowing where the deed was held and check to see if the car was being

sold legally. At present, motorists can be reasonably confident that a car is being sold lawfully only if it is brand new and sitting in a showroom.

Buying used cars is different altogether. It is estimated that the average used car costs £5,000, and up to 1.5 million change hands privately each year. Even dealers can be unsuspecting accomplices in passing on vehicles they have no right to sell. Central Motor Auctions this year set aside £100,000 to cover debts incurred in dealing unwittingly with cars that should not be for sale.

Car buyers could do more to help themselves, says Hire Purchase Information: "Few people consider security of title unless their suspicions are aroused when asking for the log book."

VAUGHAN FREEMAN

● Hire Purchase Information Auto Data can be contacted on 0722 422422. Vehicle checks cost £15 for each vehicle.

Pace, space, grace . . . and reliability

The new Jaguar has all the old virtues and more

Jaguar's first television advertising campaign for 12 years reached the nation's screens this week to launch the firm's 1993 luxury-car range. Vaughan Freeman writes.

At the heart of the £6 million campaign are scenes showing a schoolboy dreaming of driving the glorious Mark 2 Jaguar of the 1960s, a car that still epitomises the company's sporting saloon tradition. Today Jaguar is targeting that dreaming schoolboy in the hope that he has grown up into a business executive who can afford a Jaguar.

This link of heritage and nostalgia has made evolution rather than revolution the key to Jaguar's new cars. Indeed, despite a mass of technical innovations, at first sight its new products seem unchanged from their 1992 predecessors.

However, Jaguar has spent an estimated £35 million replacing or upgrading more than a thousand components in the new range.

Exterior changes such as new wheel trims are modest. But inside upgrades include air bags and central locking as standard, as is a factory-fitted alarm and a more refined engine and gearbox. Electrically adjusted seats, new switch gear and new audio systems are also included.

The most obvious difference

ROAD TEST

Checklist on the Jaguar XJ6 Sovereign pictured right. Engine: 4-litre, 6-cylinder with catalytic giving 223bhp at 4750rpm through five-speed manual gear box or four-speed automatic.

Performance: 0 to 60mph in 8.6 seconds. Top speed 136mph.

Economy: Unleaded petrol giving 22mpg over mixed driving.

Price: £36,768 (sports steering and suspension pack £2,073 extra).

comes in the shape of paper rather than metal. For the first time, Jaguar's confidence in its cars is such that three-year warranties are now standard.

If such confidence is unfounded it could prove a costly error: warranty claims could damage the balance books as badly as the firm's credibility.

Nick Scheele, the chairman of Jaguar, is confident. "Jaguars have been noted for many qualities over the years," he says. "Grace, space and pace is still an appropriate slogan for our current product, but value for money has always been a vital ingredient, too."

"We believe our decision to standardise air bags and security alarm systems as well as our recent move to a three-year



Even in a downpour on the M5 the car is rock-steady

business, but the charisma of a Jaguar is unique. Behind the wheel, the Sovereign that I drove seemed cramped initially, but then I am over 6ft 4ins. The air bag packed in the steering wheel unit makes it

difficult to see some dials and the positioning of the electric seat adjusters makes using them fiddly.

Once the car is on the move, however, the driving position is comfortable and the controls come easily to hand.

The Sovereign I was driving was fitted with the Sports Pack option, which results in an effective blend of luxury car and enthusiast's machine.

Huge performance from the four-litre engine is matched to steering that is direct and suspension that keeps the car nicely flat through corners.

At all times there is the cosseting comfort of Wilton carpet, Connolly leather, polished wood and chrome.

Cutting through a down-

pour on the M5 the car is rock-steady and breathlessly quiet. Even at 90mph the engine is working only at 3,000rpm. The trip computer registered 22mpg over mixed fast motorway work and switchback Cotswold roads.

This year has been a tough one for Jaguar with only 6,000 British sales expected against 14,000 in 1989.

Eighty per cent of Jaguars go to business customers and the recession has all but destroyed a marketplace based firmly in the directors' car park.

Even so, if value for money is the criterion, the new Jaguars is in the running. The cheapest in the new range, the XJ6, has a 3.2-litre engine and at just under £26,000 is yours for the cost of the dearest Ford or Vauxhall.

Chaplin's star car

CHARLIE Chaplin's 1931 Rolls-Royce Phantom Two Tourer is going up for sale. The car became a film star in its own right when it appeared with the comedy actor in his 1939 masterpiece, *The Great Dictator*. The Rolls-Royce is valued at between £85,000 and £100,000 and will star once again when it joins the Coys of London auction on Wednesday.

The dirtier sex

ABOUT 40 per cent of women wash their cars only once a month, while only 9 per cent of men leave cleaning that long, says Carebridge, the car clean specialist. Three-quarters of women clean the inside of their cars less than once a month. Fewer than half of

women drivers check tyres every week and only one in five checks her oil weekly.

Greener still

THE UK's first centre for car recycling has been opened. The plant is a joint effort between BMW and Bolney Motors in West Sussex. The centre is the first of 15 that BMW hopes to have in the UK by 1995. The company aims to process 500 BMWs in the first year, recycling everything, including oil, windcreens, electrical components and interior trim.

Report that road

THE RAC says our roads are getting worse and wants motorists' help to put things right. The organisation is encouraging drivers to count the holes in their road as part of a new purge on potholes, to photograph potholes that have been around a long time and to complain to the local council's highways director. At the

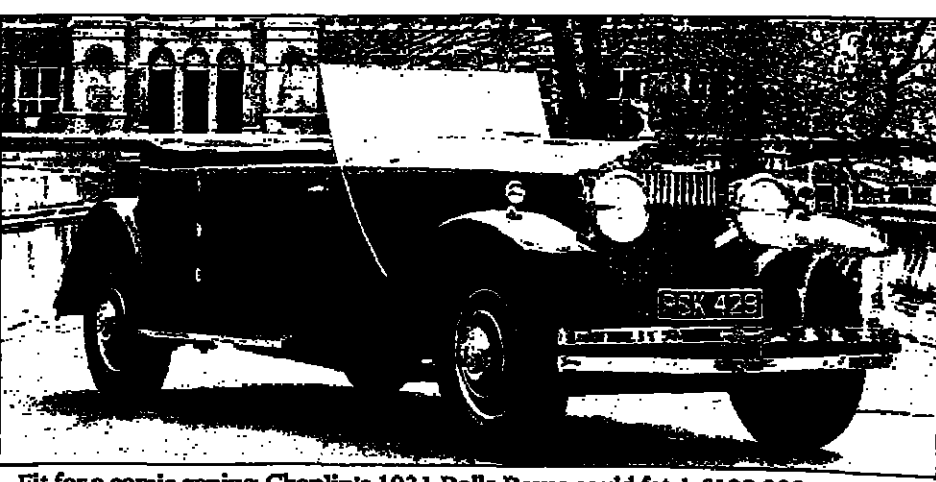
RAC, Shelley Maxwell says: "If your vehicle is damaged by a deep pothole you may well be able to recover the cost of the repair."

Miles ahead

THE latest diesel-powered Range Rover Vogue Tdi has just completed the 832-mile trip from John O'Groats to Land's End on only one fill of its 18-gallon fuel tank. The car averaged 53mpg despite appalling weather and heavy traffic. Two gallons were left in the tank, giving the Range Rover an estimated range of 920 miles.

Looking at locks

TOYOTA has recalled 11,950 old-model Camrys registered between 1986 and 1990 for checks to central locking, while BMW wants owners of 520i and 525i models registered between August 16, 1988, and August 11, 1989, to have them checked for a possible electrical system fault.



Fit for a comic genius: Chaplin's 1931 Rolls-Royce could fetch £100,000 at auction

Crowded schedule ends cricket tour

India prepare for floodlit test of form and stamina

FROM RICHARD STREETON IN PIETERMARITZBURG

AFTER two days relaxing in a game reserve, India embark upon the most gruelling part of their tour of southern Africa here tonight. A solid fortnight of day-night matches is followed by a three-day game before the tour ends with the final two Test matches. In Port Elizabeth and Cape Town, over the holiday period.

A tune-up this evening against a President's XI is aimed at helping the Indians adapt once again to World Cup conditions — two white balls, black sight-screens and coloured clothing. On Monday in Cape Town, they play the first of seven floodlit internationals in different cities. It is hardly the programme the Indians might have chosen to try to get several key players back in to form.

In similar fashion to last winter in Australia, senior batsmen such as Azharuddin, Shastri and Manjrekar simply have not delivered runs regularly on important occasions. Jadeja, the newcomer, has also been inconsistent. Among the bowlers, Kapil Dev looks to have lost his cutting edge and Raju, the left-arm spinner, his confidence.

Azharuddin and Jadeja have consistently been caught behind or in the slip cordon, though they at least could benefit from the absence of close fielders in the one-day games. Azharuddin's retention of the captaincy against England in the new year, though, can no longer be considered certain unless he can find his true form soon.

Both Azharuddin and

Wessels, the South Africa captain, continue to be widely criticised for their negative tactics on the final day of the second Test. They condemned a fine march to a tedious finish and have done nothing to help South Africa administrators to sell Test match tickets.

The one-day matches will gross the South Africa board an estimated £1.5 million profit, with a sell-out virtually achieved already at every venue. Wessels has the consolation of knowing that South Africa have the form and credentials to dominate this series. Success would go a long way towards earning him forgiveness for what happened in the Test match.

South Africa start favourites. Wessels, Hudson, Rhodes and McMillan have made Test runs. Donald, Matthews and Schultz, as well as McMillan, all bring more firepower to the attack than the Indians possess. The selection of Callaghan, who, like the Australian, Simon O'Donnell, has overcome cancer to return to cricket, also strengthens the home side. He is a hard hitter and a useful seam bowler.

Allan Lamb, in his regular newspaper column in this country, has been one of the few critics of South Africa's team. Lamb wanted the selectors to follow England's example and go for all-rounders in the one-day internationals, such as Rice and Kuiper. Neither, though, has done much of late. At 43, the years seem to have caught up with Rice.

The President's XI tonight is led by Peter Rawson, the medium-fast bowler who used to play for Zimbabwe. The Indians have deferred choosing their side.

PRESIDENT'S XI: P.W.E. Rawson (captain), J.M. Arthur, G. Kirsten, M.J.R. Farnock, D.J. Cullinan, P. Diedericks, K. Maharaj, H.A. Marshall, E.O. Sibbald, S.J. Patterson (wicket-keeper), S. Aherne.

Richardson must be ready to duck

Perth: Richie Richardson, the West Indies captain, bravely added spice to the opening match of the World Series Cup, against Pakistan at the WACA ground today, when he suggested that the Pakistan bowlers, Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis, were "not really fast".

The Pakistan team manager, Colonel Naushad Ali, was not amused. "They are accepted around the world as very fast bowlers. Richardson can have his own opinion," he said.

Richardson did, however, admit: "They have great control, they move the ball and they are great thinkers. They are two great bowlers."

Akram, who helped Pakistan win the World Cup in Australia in March, said he again expected to have some

trouble controlling the white balls used in the tournament.

"I could bowl slower and not give away any no-balls or wides but I'm a fast bowler, an attacking bowler, and need to come in as quickly as I can," he said. "I might bowl five wides but then I might get three wickets — so it becomes worth taking the risk."

Wagor missed the World Cup because of a back injury and was told: "We are a lot better now that we have Wagor back. He is the best bowler in the world as well as the fastest."

Neither side has chosen its team for the day-night game. Only Aaqib Javed, who has a stress fracture in the lower back, is unavailable for Pakistan. Ata-Ur-Rehman, 17, who played in the Edgbaston Test last summer, deputises.

Rutter enforcing Yeovil lore



BY ALAN LEE

MENTION the romance of the Cup and you mention Yeovil Town. The two are inseparable, and it is somehow appropriate that the latest mission improbable of the game's enduring adventures is being piloted by a former policeman on crutches.

Steve Rutter was faced with a stark choice two years ago when his employers, the Northamptonshire Constabulary, wanted him to transfer from physical instruction to beat duties. He had to give up the police or give up football.

Scorning security in pursuit of his ambition to manage a League club, he left the force and took charge of Yeovil, where he had been a player for four seasons. In the course of the past year, he has several times had cause to question the sanity of that decision, as the famous club has flirted with relegation, and even bankruptcy.

"We have been within a week of closing down," Rutter said. "It was a vicious circle. Our new ground had left us with debts of half a million pounds, results were bad and the crowds fell away so there was even less money to pay the bills. Early this year I felt like packing it up and disappearing but the staff here share a sense of humour and we kept going by laughing at ourselves even when things were desperate."

They are not so desperate now. The debt remains, and survival is a matter of daily budgets, but respectability in the Vauxhall Conference has accompanied a precious Cup run. Torquay United were beaten 5-2, away, and now Hereford United must fear becoming the sixteenth Football League victims of this remarkable market-town club.

Rutter is more than a manager, even at present while an ankle injury prevents him playing. He works full-time at the club, juggling skilfully with what little



Club man: Rutter hopes to add another chapter to Yeovil's FA Cup success story

money is available, creating a vibrant, happy team and, in tandem with the coach, Paul Rogers, a winning one, too.

He is bewildered, but not ungrateful, that players such as the centre half, Mark Shail — "as good as any outside the Premier League" — and Andy Wallace, a striker, have remained immune from higher offers. And he revels in the atmosphere which comes from a team high on intelligence, with four graduates, and strong on diversity.

The most unusual day job belongs to Jeff Sherwood, who designs anti-detection shields for Ministry of Defence nuclear submarines. Sherwood will be engaged in a different kind of defence tomorrow, when the plush new ground at Huish Park, on the outskirts of Yeovil, can expect a crowd of 6,000.

Is it, perhaps, not quite the same without the notorious sloping pitch of the old Huish? "Maybe," Rutter agrees. "I played on it and I

have seen what it can do to a big club. When Queens Park Rangers came down a few years back I remember Jim Smith, their manager, saying he never thought they could lose until he saw the pitch."

"But we are getting used to the new pitch now. I even put up a marquee and had my wedding reception on it in May. It is up to us to make Huish Park our new fortress, so that League clubs still dread being drawn against us."

BOXING Confident Piper ready for Benn

BY SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

WHEN Nicky Piper agreed some weeks ago to challenge Nigel Benn, boxing experts felt about laughing. "Have you heard?" they said. Piper, a member of Mensa, must have had a brainstorm, they said. But yesterday, the bespectacled, softly-spoken Welshman from Cardiff, who looks more like a schoolmaster than a super-middleweight, predicted he would knock out the knock-out artist to become the World Boxing Council champion at Alexandra Palace, north London, next Saturday.

He spoke so calmly about his daunting task that by the time the press conference was over, the experts were beginning to have second thoughts.

There was no question of Piper being thrown in with the hardest puncher in Britain. It was a bout the Welsh light-heavyweight always fancied. "We've been making offers to Benn and Eubank," Piper said. "I was surprised the offer came from Barry [Hearn, Benn's promoter]. I believe I can beat both these fighters."

Piper, who said he had no trouble coming down from light-heavyweight, added: "After I've beaten Nigel Benn, I'll take a couple of creditable opponents Eubank has beaten — Gimenez or Tony Thornton — then the public will clamour for a fight between me and Eubank. I'm not pretending Benn will be easy, but he's easier to read than Eubank. I respect Nigel Benn, he's a great fighter, he loves boxing. I don't respect Eubank. He's bitten the hand that feeds him."

Herbie Hide, meanwhile, the unbeaten Norwich heavy-weight, was "up in the clouds" after hearing on Sportsnight that he was on Riddick Bowe's shopping list of opponents. Hearn, his promoter, said he will be talking to the world champion's promoters in two weeks' time in New York.

SPORTS LETTERS

Players who set bad example

FROM THE MASTER OF
HAILEYBURY COLLEGE

Sir, I was one of the MCC members who signed the petition which led to the calling of the meeting at Lord's on Tuesday. My signing of the petition did not derive principally from the selectors' decision to omit David Gower. There may be factors involved in that decision of which I am unaware, though it is certainly one which is almost inexplicable.

My principal reason for signing the petition was my very considerable anger at the selection of the South African rebels. I am a strong supporter of contacts with South Africa and greatly regretted the ICC's decision to ban any English cricketer who went to South Africa to coach and play as a private individual. That seems to me to be an intolerable interference with people's liberty and freedom.

What I criticised at the time, and still do, were the actions of a group of cricketers, collected together in conditions of subterfuge and deceit, undertaking a tour against the express wishes of the government of the day, the cricket authorities in this country, and every other Test-playing country, and I genuinely believed at the time, the majority of cricket lovers; and all that solely for financial gain.

I do not believe that to be a good example to the young. I find it difficult to uphold standards of loyalty and sportsmanship when the England selectors show a gross disregard for such virtues.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID JEWELL, Master,
Haileybury College,
Hertford.

Supporting role

FROM MR RICHARD BUTLER

Sir, I was one of those petitioners present at the meeting at Lord's on Tuesday to discuss whether we should go forward with the special general meeting of MCC to debate a no-confidence motion in the England cricket selectors.

I was proud to vote for this motion and I carried with me the best wishes of most of the young cricketers of the nation.

It would be fair to say that the young were not much in evidence, but I am pleased to say that following my brief

Cardiff not only culprit

FROM MR CLEM THOMAS

Sir, I must protest that David Hurn (Sports Letters, November 27) should vent such spleen at the behaviour of a small percentage of the Welsh rugby crowd at Cardiff.

If he were to visit Parc des Princes, he would surely be appalled at the wall of noise and whistling which greets not only penalty goals, but most of the referees' decisions.

It is part of the Gallic fervour — more akin to the Welsh than the reserved gentility of Twickenham — of the great south-west of France, where I have seen, as he must have done, bad behaviour of medal-winning proportions.

At Twickenham last Saturday he heard a far greater cacophony of whistles and jeers than anything heard at Cardiff, when Marjorie Roebuck took his penalty kick at goal. At least the authorities admonished the crowd over the tannoy at Cardiff.

Did he not also hear the remarkably generous applause by the Welsh crowd for Campese's fine try, acknowledged by the player himself on television during the week?

Bad sportsmanship is not the preserve of any country. It is only evidence that a small percentage of society will always remain mindless.

Yours faithfully,
CLEM THOMAS,
De La Beche House, Sketty,
Swansea, West Glamorgan.

FA must back referees to take strong action

FROM MR ALF NOBLE

Sir, Having had the honour of representing the Football Association in a playing capacity, albeit some 40 years past, I read with interest the article by David Miller (November 25) and the letter (November 27) from the chief executive of the FA, Graham Kelly.

Shame to say, I no longer have the inclination to attend a game of football, but as a past devotee I am drawn to the televised game to keep me up to date. What I see leads me to believe that Mr Kelly and his staff have a mountain to climb if they are to restore the image of "behaviour and discipline" (his words).

Today's professional footballer, with a few exceptions, believes that results are more easily achieved by blatant cheating, cynical fouling, play-acting, and verbal and physical intimidation.

Players steal anything from four to ten yards when taking throw-ins, form a wall seven to eight yards from a free kick, and stand over the ball when a free kick is awarded against them.

This belief is enhanced by the ineffectual refereeing in most games, which allows these transgressions to go unchecked.

Mr Kelly must insist that all referees apply the letter and spirit of the law in all games, irrespective of the sending-offs this may entail. So be it if some Premier League matches finish as seven-a-side. The lesson will be learned and football

and the spectator will be all the better for it.

Football is a simple and uncomplicated game, in spite of what managers and coaches would have you believe. Cheating, intimidation and skulduggery are no substitute for ball control, accurate passing and speed of thought.

If Mr Kelly still feels complacent about the standards of English football, he should watch the highlights of various matches televised in *Match of the Day*. He should take particular note when corners are taken because invariably there will be infringements (holding, shirt-pulling, pushing and elbowing, even sexual interference), which go completely unpunished.

Don't let the commentators have you believe that it's a "man's game" and these things must be accepted. The whistle should be blown on them — and the quicker the better.

Yours faithfully,
ALF NOBLE,
6 Forest Drive East, E11.

FROM MR D. E. WILLIAMS
Sir, David Miller's article prompted comparisons with an earlier episode of lawlessness in cricket.

In the 1890s the English first-class game was beset by controversies about bowlers with suspect actions. Repeated attempts were made to persuade captains and committees to deal with the problem themselves. Eventually it became clear that no county

would take the initiative since each feared that they would be at a disadvantage if they played only "fair" bowlers.

The problem was solved by one courageous umpire, James Phillips, an Australian who, possessed of independent means, was not afraid to antagonise the establishment. He simply "called" every bowler whose action he considered unfair (starting with C. B. Fry) and eventually his English colleagues took heart and did likewise.

Sooner or later no county was prepared to field a bowler if he was likely to be no-balled continually in every game. By the time Phillips gave up umpiring in 1905 the throwing controversy had been ended and the problem disappeared, apart from a brief resurgence in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

Is not the parallel with persistent foul play in football obvious? If referees enforced the laws of the game and ruthlessly cautioned or sent off players who set out to break the rules at every opportunity, and if their actions were upheld by the authorities, the so-called "hard men" would have a clear choice either to use their skills legitimately or face permanent loss of employment because even the most cynical manager could not afford to pick them.

Yours truly,
D. E. WILLIAMS,
The Old Post Office,
Howe Street, Great Waltham,
Chelmsford, Essex.

Ortlieb welcomes increase in speed

FROM DAVID POWELL IN VAL D'ISÈRE

THE course for the first World Cup downhill of the season has delighted Patrick Ortlieb, the Olympic champion. It is as fast as safety experts dare let him go.

When Ortlieb won his gold medal here in February, he was unfilled. "I hope I never have to race again on this track," he said. "It is not spectacular enough. It is too slow." On the La Face de Bellevard piste, the top speed was 60mph. The specialist downhillers felt compromised.

For the World Cup, they will be back on the OK piste, which was used for the competition last year. It is not only faster than the Bellevard, but because it starts higher, it is quicker than it was for last year's World Cup. Speeds will approach 85mph.

Two years ago, Ortlieb's Austrian team-mate, Gernot Reinstadler, died when he crashed at Wengen. It concentrated international ski federation (FIS) minds on safety. "We came to a point where we were no longer looking for speed," Tito Giovannini, the Alpine World Cup director, said.

"Last year, we did not have a serious accident because of the better safety procedures: 140kph is the maximum we can accept." Which means they will be skiing to the limits here 140kph equals 85mph. "This is a real downhill

course," Ortlieb said after practice. A.J. Kitt, the New Yorker who won the World Cup race here last year, added his approval. "It is an exciting, fun course," Kitt said. "The first jump is really big and it is much faster on the flats." But he may have to wait one day longer for his fun. The downhill, scheduled for today, may now be held tomorrow.

One reason skiing struggles to project itself outside the Alpine nations is its lack of personalities. Ortlieb fits into the cast. His Olympic victory had made him an idol in Austria. "Everywhere I go, people know me and sometimes it is not fun," he said. He would rather keep himself to himself.

Meanwhile, skiing wastes opportunities to help itself. There was no pre-race press conference, let alone one with Ortlieb, now returning to the scene of his Olympic triumph. "We are doing a miserable job in helping the media to bring skiing to the public," Howard Peterson, the United States Ski Federation director, said.

The introduction of serious prize-money has been a positive step, but publicity and sponsorship through a central marketing agency needs attention. Until then, the FIS will do its sport as much of a disservice as did the Bellevard designers for the genuine downhillers.

HOCKEY

Title hopes may end

SUTTON Coldfield go into their last match before the Christmas break, away to Ealing tomorrow, knowing that victory is essential if they are to stand any chance of catching the women's national league leaders (Alix Ramsay writes).

Ipswich, the leaders, and Slough, the defending champions, are unlikely to drop points in their games, against Clifton and Wimbledon respectively, and defeat for Sutton Coldfield would see them six points adrift and virtually out of contention.

Sutton Coldfield have not been helped by a lack of competitiveness and a number

of injuries. Lynday Watkin has been missing with a back injury and Lisa Bayliss is unlikely to play against Ealing. The coach, Barrie Dunkley, has promised a new formation and new spirit for the new year.

England, who took the bronze medal in 1987 — the last time they competed — have announced their squad for the European Indoor Cup, to be played in January.

ENGLAND SQUAD: J. Thompson (goalkeeper), C. Field (right-wing), J. Cook (left-wing), S. Lister (forward), M. Michaels (centre), I. Selinger (centre), J. Green (centre), S. Wright (left), C. Harvie (centre), S. Chandler (left).

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 48

NAEVE

(a) A spot of blemish, from the Latin *naevus* a mole or other blemish on the skin. Aubrey on Sir Walter Raleigh: "He was a tall, handsome, and bold man, but his naevus was that he was damnable proud."

GARBOIL

(b) Confusion, disturbance, tumult, an instance of this, a brawl, hubbub, hurlyburly, connected with the Latin *habere* to hold. Queen Elizabeth I to Sir Walter Raleigh: "... nourish and entertain the garboil in Scotland."

MICKER

(c) A secret or petty thief, a pilferer, from the early Middle English *micchare*, Scott: "Thou art turned micker as well as padder — Canst thou rob a man and kildnap him?"

PUERS

(d) Dog's dirt used for tanning high-class leather, London malformation and mispronunciation from the Latin *puer*, to purify: "The calf-skins are then unhaird and fleshed in the usual manner, pured with a bote of dog's dung or puers."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

White wins the black queen with 1 Nc7+ Kh8 2 Ng6+!

Over the top

FROM MR RAYMOND WERGAN

Sir, Time-wasting, play-acting, arguing and sly fouling are other minuses to add to the chattering commentary on Channel 4's Italian football (Sports Letters, November 27). But they are far outweighed by the wonderful skills shown each week by men actually dressed like footballers in striking, old-fashioned strips.

How this must bemuse the image-makers of our game who think they have improved our football by allowing teams to play in outlandish outfits and changing the first division into the Premier League.

Yours faithfully,
RAYMOND WERGAN,
Milton Point, Yealm Road,
Newton Ferris,
Plymouth, Devon.

American cousin

FROM MS K. SINDERSON

Sir, Watching the recent netball coverage on television led me to consider that it is a game played principally in Commonwealth countries and not apparently in the United States, where basketball reigns supreme.

Then I remembered an article in *Sports Illustrated* some three years ago about a females-only version of basketball, played with six a side instead of the conventional five, but with certain similarities to the seven-a-side game of netball.

The restriction of certain areas of the court to players in particular positions and the restrictions on shooting to all but the designated players, as well as limited dribbling and a three-second possession rule,

were described as features of this apparent hybrid of a game.

In Iowa, according to the article, its popularity is such that an annual state-wide tournament has been held and enthusiastically supported since 1926, enabling the game to hold its own against the "proper" five-a-side version of basketball.

Is this the closest netball comes to being played in the United States? Has anyone from the netball world ever made contact with the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union who administer this game, to exchange views or spread the netball gospel? It would be interesting to know.

Yours faithfully,
KATHARINE SINDERSON,
15 Cleve Crescent,
Grimby,
Lincolnshire.

Stylish parting

FROM MR A. D. LAYCOCK

Sir, A notice in the Personal Column (November 27) recorded a death "after a fine innings L.B.W. for 75". While I am sorry that the gentleman concerned did not go on to his "innings", the notice nevertheless says much for his style and that of his family.

I am sure that I would have been tempted to depart maintaining that I had had a nick from my bat or that I had played a stroke to a ball pitching outside the off stump.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN LAYCOCK,
178 Tavistock Road,
Fleet,
Hampshire.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 071-782 5046

Shaikh Mohammed builds Triumph Hurdle challenge

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

SHAikh Mohammed's challenge for further National Hunt glory has prompted Britain's leading Flat owner to send Scrutiny to the in-form David Nicholson yard.

The three-year-old colt, who won twice on the Flat this summer when trained by John Gosden, will be aimed at the Daily Express Triumph Hurdle at the Cheltenham festival next March.

Scrutiny has been joined at Nicholson's yard by Kadi, owned by the Shaikh and formerly with John Oxx in Ireland, where he won a maiden at the Curragh earlier this year. Another former Oxx horse, Home Counties, has been sent by the Shaikh to Nicky Henderson.

Scrutiny, who won a maiden at Epsom and a handicap at Kempton, both over tenfurlongs on good ground, has already shown enough to excite Nicholson. "I'm lucky to have him and he's an extremely nice horse," he said. "He's got a superb temperament and has really taken to jumping. He has given me a fair buzz I can tell you, more than Highland Bud."

Highland Bud, also owned by Shaikh Mohammed and

trained by Nicholson, was runner-up in the Triumph Hurdle in 1989 before going to the United States, where he has gained further success, including victory in this season's Breeders' Cup Chase.

Nicholson aims to introduce Scrutiny to hurdling at Cheltenham's new year meeting but warned: "He will not run on extremes of ground."

Home Counties, who has been gelded, was schooled for the first time over hurdles last week by Richard Dunwoody "and it could not have gone better", according to Henderson.

Shaikh Mohammed has enjoyed great success over jumps from relatively few runners. Kribensis carried his colours to victory in the 1988 Triumph Hurdle and the Champion Hurdle a year later, while Royal Gift won this year's hurdling crown.

The absence of turf racing yesterday did not stop backers putting on their betting boots over the Coral Welsh National at Chepstow on December 28. The sponsors laid several good bets on Minnehoma, last season's top staying novice chaser, and cut the price of the Martin Pipe-trained favourite

from 10-1 to 6-1. Similar support for Belmont Captain, Toby Balding's improving handicapper, saw his price trimmed from 12-1 to 8-1.

With rain forcing Sandown to abandon racing today, the most important fixture takes place at 10.30am in The Strand. Three Court of Appeal judges will rule on the Aga Khan's legal challenge to the Jockey Club flowing from the disqualification of Alyssa, the 1989 Oaks winner.

The Aga Khan is seeking judicial review of the Jockey Club's decision. If he is successful, the implications will be far-reaching, not only for racing's rules but for other sports. The door would be opened for successful legal challenges to decisions taken by sports governing bodies.

Should the judges find in favour of the Aga Khan, it could lead to the drawn-out Alyssa hearing being heard again in the courts. Until now the High Court has been reluctant to become involved in judgments on decision making by sports' rules.

Richard Hannon said yesterday he would not know "for a couple of days" whether he will remain the trainer of Lyric Fantasy, who was sold for 340,000 guineas at Tattersall's sales on Wednesday.

Paul Shanahan, the Irish stud owner who bought the filly on behalf of an unnamed consortium, said she would stay in training. Asked whether she would remain with Hannon, Shanahan said: "That is obviously up to the principals who bought her, but I imagine that is probably what will happen."

Lyric Fantasy was back at Hannon's Wiltshire stables yesterday.

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Weather claims Sandown

RAIN continues to disrupt the National Hunt programme. The fixtures at Sandown Park today and Towcester tomorrow have been called off, bringing the number of meetings lost this week to eight.

Only Nottingham has survived today and prospects for the weekend remain uncertain. More rain would jeopardise the fixtures at Sandown, due to stage the William Hill Handicap Hurdle, and Chepstow, which features the Rehearsal Chase.

Sandown was abandoned after heavy rain during the morning and a further inspection at 2pm today will determine the fate of tomorrow's card. If the meeting goes ahead, the grade two Crownepark Winter Novices Hurdle will be carried over to make a seven-race card.

Prospects at Chepstow improved during the day. Clerk of the course Roger Barrant had been particularly concerned, but after walking the course, said: "I was quite surprised. It's perfectly raceable at the moment. There is no inspection planned unless there is further heavy rain."

The major note of optimism came from Edward Gillespie, the clerk of the course at Wetherby, where the ground is now soft. "We would have no problem racing today. We have had a dry day and something would have to go wrong to prevent us racing," he said.

Major is briefed on racing

THE prime minister was briefed in the Commons yesterday on the problems facing the racing industry (Richard Evans writes).

John Major had a 20-minute meeting with three Conservative MPs who represent racing areas — Richard Spring (Bury St Edmunds), Jim Paice (South East Cambridgeshire) and Judith Chaplin (Newbury).

Although the meeting was strictly private, the threat posed by high VAT to breeders and the bloodstock industry is understood to have been at the top of the agenda.

The prime minister, who has a racing background, will have been left in no doubt about the potential impact of 17.5% VAT on bloodstock in the UK, compared to 2.7% in Ireland and 5.5% in France.

Spring, who chaired the recent employment select committee enquiry into the effects of high VAT on bloodstock, would not comment on the prime ministerial meeting, but said he and his colleagues expressed great concern about the racing industry.

He said: "There is now more interest in racing's problems, both in the Commons and the House of Lords."

Racing at Lingfield was put back an hour yesterday while water was cleared from the track.

Lingfield Park

Going: standard

12.10 (1m) 1. KING PARROT (D. Harrison, 12-1), 2. Nettle Dean (D. Harrison, 12-1), 3. Nettle Dean (D. Harrison, 12-1), 4. Nettle Dean (D. Harrison, 12-1), 5. Nettle Dean (D. Harrison, 12-1), 6. Nettle Dean (D. Harrison, 12-1), 7. Nettle Dean (D. Harrison, 12-1), 8. Nettle Dean (D. Harrison, 12-1), 9. Nettle Dean (D. Harrison, 12-1), 10. Nettle Dean (D. Harrison, 12-1), 11. Nettle Dean (D. Harrison, 12-1), 12. Nettle Dean (D. Harrison, 12-1), 13. Nettle Dean (D. Harrison, 12-1), 14. Nettle Dean (D. Harrison, 12-1), 15. Nettle Dean (D. Harrison, 12-1), 16. Nettle Dean (D. Harrison, 12-1), 17. Nettle Dean (D. Harrison, 12-1), 18. Nettle Dean (D. Harrison, 12-1), 19. Nettle Dean (D. Harrison, 12-1), 20. Nettle Dean (D. Harrison, 12-1), 21. Nettle Dean (D. Harrison, 12-1), 22. Nettle Dean (D. Harrison, 12-1), 23. Nettle Dean (D. Harrison, 12-1), 24. Nettle Dean (D. Harrison, 12-1), 25. Nettle Dean (D. Harrison, 12-1), 26. Nettle Dean (D. Harrison, 12-1), 27. Nettle Dean (D. 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BBC1

- 6.00 Ceebeak** (83452) **6.30 Breakfast News** (40236810)
9.05 Kilroy. Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject (2110384) **9.45 News**. A quiz show. The guest is former boxing champion Tony Cooper (s) (6102278)
10.00 News. Regional news and weather (3834384) **10.05 Playdays**. For the very young (r) (s) (5540817)
10.30 Good Morning... with Anne and Nick. Weekday magazine series (48033452)
12.15 Pebble Mill. Judi Spiers is joined by Top Gear's Jeremy Clarkson and singer Rose Marie. There is also a recorded interview with the veteran Hollywood star Rod Taylor (8818638) **12.55 Regional News** and weather (65942094)
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton. (Ceebeak) Weather (39346) **1.30 Neighbours**. (Ceebeak) (s) (21353432) **1.50 Eldorado** (r). (Ceebeak) (s) (37630907)
2.20 Going for Gold. The doorman Henry Kelly with another round of the general knowledge quiz with European contestants (s) (99487704) **2.45 The Flying Doctors**. Medical drama series set in the Australian outback (8812902)
3.30 Tom and Jerry Double Bill (5482384) **3.45 Bump** (r) (6193384) **3.50 Christopher Crocodile**. Animation. With the voice of Derek Griffiths (707623) **3.55 Superbooks**. Nicola Davies and Philip Hawthorn continue their journey round the human body (5471891) **4.10 Chipmunks Go to the Movies** (s) (8079007) **4.35 Record Breakers**. Presenting Roy Castle and Cheryl Baker. Includes strong man tackling the formidable McGlashen Stones and guest Michael Palin. (Ceebeak) (s) (1433007)
5.00 Newsround (8831097) **5.05 Byker Grove**. Drama series set in a working-class youth club. (Ceebeak) (1951425)
5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceebeak) (s) (712758). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Moira Stuart. (Ceebeak) Weather (65)
6.30 Regional News Magazines (839). Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 Eldorado. (Ceebeak) (s) (3013)
7.30 Don't Walk Up. George Layton's amiable comedy series starring Tony Britton and Nigel Havers as father and son doctors (r). (Ceebeak) (s) (723). Northern Ireland: Sportszone



Heart-warming tales of kindness: Esther Rantzen (8.00pm)

- 8.00 Hearts of Gold**. The first of a new series of three programmes in which Esther Rantzen highlights the work of unsung heroes and heroines. With Mike Smith, Timmy Mallett, Michaela Strachan and Angela Rippon. (Ceebeak) (s) (7549)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Maryn Lewis. (Ceebeak) Regional news and weather (8162)
9.30 Between the Lines. In the last of the series about internal police investigations, the deputy chief of the Metropolitan Police, Commander Huxtable is told to stay at home and Tony Clark is determined to discover why his lover, Jenny Dean, committed suicide. (Ceebeak) (s) (129839)
10.10 Terry Wogan's Friday Night. Tonight's guests are Cliff Richard, George Best, Sister Wendy Beckett and Frank Skinner (s) (835075). Northern Ireland: Anderson on the Box
11.00 Films: *Frances* (1982). © CHOICE: The story of Frances Farmer, a rising Hollywood star of the 1930s whose career disintegrated through mental illness, makes a long, gruelling and sometimes disjointed film but one worth watching for an outstanding central performance from Jessica Lange. Farmer was a tragic victim, of the Hollywood studio system and of a devious and domineering mother (strongly portrayed by Kim Stanley), but her own volatile temperament also contributed to her fall. In capturing Farmer's vulnerability, along with her undoubted screen presence, Lange presents a rounded characterisation to which the later part of the film, charting the star's bleak progress through a brutal system of mental care, forms a harrowing counterpoint. Graeme Clifford directs with a solemnity appropriate to the theme. (Ceebeak) (s) (1151520). Northern Ireland: Terry Wogan's Night Out 11.50-1.20am Film: *Sins of the Mothers* 1.15am Weather (3825679)

BBC2

- 8.00 Breakfast News** (5456620) **8.15 Westminster** (5552907)
9.00 Another War. Another Peace. Magnus Magnusson explores what life was like in the 1940s and 1950s (38810)
9.30 Film: All Over Town (1937, b/w) starring Ole Olsen and Chic Johnson. Low budget comedy directed by James Hone (21043)
10.30 Film: Mary of Scotland (1836, b/w) The John Ford season continues with this lavish biopic of the headstrong Mary Stuart, starring Katharine Hepburn in the title role (12907)
12.30 Michael Barry's Choice Cuts. Cakes (3966013) **12.40 Great Little Britain**. A journey on the Mardurach Express across North West India (r). (Ceebeak) (1401084) **1.20 Tales of Aesop** (r) (39144452) **1.25 Joshua Jones** (r) (11762891)
1.35 Another War. Another Peace. Magnus Magnusson with news from 1945 (37644100)
2.00 News and Weather (8941181) **2.05 Michael Barry's Choice Cuts**. Recipes using lamb (19778346)
2.15 Sport on Friday introduced by Helen Rollason. Skiing: highlights of the opening round of the World Cup season from Sestriere in Italy. The featured event is the men's slalom; Football: a round up of the week's Premier league action. With News (Ceebeak) and weather at 3.00 and 3.50 (315589)
4.00 Catchword. Game for wordsmiths, hosted by Paul Coia (s) (452)
4.30 Behind the Headlines. With Shyma Parva (638)
5.00 Delta Smith's Christmas (r). (Ceebeak) (1891)
5.30 Top Gear. Includes a visit to the Motorcycle show at the NEC in Birmingham (r) (s) (988)
6.00 Stingray. Puppet series from the 1960s (r). (Ceebeak) (485013)
6.25 The Man From Uncle. Secret agent spoof starring Robert Vaughn and David McCallum (r). (Ceebeak) (143452)
7.15 Dr Who. Episode three of a five-part story starring Jon Pertwee (r) (300278). Followed by *Advent Calendar*
7.40 What the Papers Say. With The Guardian's Alan Rusbridger (200639)
8.00 Public Eye: School Blazers. Barbara Alton reports on the damage caused by the wild burning of schools, the cost of which last year alone came to an estimated £78 million (1075)
8.30 The Living Garden. The series on what makes a garden grow continues with a look at insects and how to exterminate the destructive ones and nurture the ones that need to be kept. (Ceebeak) (8810)



Copy-cat architecture: the Egyptian style in Paris (9.00pm)

- 9.00 The Face of Tutankhamun**. © CHOICE: Having covered Howard Carter's epic discovery in the Valley of the Kings, Christopher Frayling moves on to the 'Tut mania' which followed it. As Carter settled down to the hard slog of cataloguing his find, a task that was to take ten years, ancient Egypt was suddenly all the rage. It influenced the design of picture palaces and the films that went into them. It stormed the fashion collections. The Nile style combined with art deco on pottery and in New York's Chrysler building. Wilson, Keppel and Betty toured the museum-halls with their priceless sand. In the 1970s the mania started all over again as the King Tut relics toured the world, drawing millions and spawning a lucrative souvenir business. It is a hugely entertaining story and Frayling, as befits a professor of cultural history, gives it full value (114471)
9.50 Sister Wendy's Odyssey. Sister Wendy Beckett continues her journey around Britain's art treasures in Oxford. (Ceebeak) (765297)
10.00 Have I Got News For You. Rude and irreverent topical quiz chaired by Argus Dayston. This week Ian Haplo and Paul Merton are joined by Jo Brand and Neil Kinnock (s) (24075)
10.30 Newsnight with Sue Cameron (242029)
11.15 Weather (380452)
11.20 Film: Les Destinées du Bois de Boulogne (1946, b/w). The French 1920s. A classic screen continues with Robert Bresson's second feature, a story of love and revenge scripted by Jean Cocteau. Starring Paul Bernier, Maria Casares and Elina Labourdette. In French with English subtitles (713177)
12.45am Behind the Headlines. Shown at 4.30pm (2116740). Ends at 1.20

ITV LONDON

- 6.00 TV-am** (5884471)
9.25 Keynotes. Music game hosted by Alistair Drival (6077278) **9.55 Thames News** (555565)
10.00 The Time. The Place... Discussion programme (9113345)
10.35 This Morning. Weekday magazine series. Today's edition includes fashion news and consumer advice from Anne Robinson at the Good Housekeeping Institute (25438029)
12.10 Rainbow. Early learning series (r) (5551891)
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News. (Oracle) Weather (1418884) **1.05 Thames News** (40678487)
1.15 Home and Away. Australian family drama series. (Oracle) (859297) **1.45 A Country Practice**. Medical drama (s) (555585)
2.15 Highway to Heaven. Jonathan the apprentice angel becomes the host of Christmas Eve in order to highlight the dangers of chemical and nuclear pollution (7487839)
3.10 ITN News headlines (7030394) **3.15 Thames News headlines** (703655) **3.20 GP**. Medical drama set in a suburban Australia (3857988)
3.50 Scooby Doo (5474988) **4.05 Astro Farm**. Last in the puppet animation series about a farming family living in space (s) (7481811) **4.15 Victor and Hugo**. More comic misadventures of the incompetent crooks. With the voice of David Jason (s) (8063346) **4.40 Knightmare**. Electronic dungeon game (5135588) **5.05 Cartoon featuring Porky Pig** (r) (2553548)
5.15 LWT News and weather (8502100)
5.40 Early Evening News. (Oracle) Weather (510907)
6.00 Home and Away (r). (Oracle) (655)
6.30 Park High. The fourth of a six-part fly-on-the-wall series about life in a suburban comprehensive (r) (907)
7.00 Through the Keyhole. Presented by David Frost. Celebrity lifestyle show with Lloyd Grossman. With Alan Coren, Eve Pollard and Doc Cox. (Oracle) (s) (8181)
7.30 Coronation Street. (Oracle) (891)
8.00 Gone to Seed. Tony Grounds's comedy drama follow-up to *Gone to the Sun*, starring Alison Steadman, Jim Broadbent, Warren Clarke and Sheila Hancock, with Peter Cook. (Oracle) (s) (2617)



Searching for evidence: West, Morrissey, Dalton (9.00pm)

- 9.00 Famed**. © CHOICE: Lynda La Plante's thriller got off to a slow and conventional start but this week it definitely moves up a gear. At its heart is still the much-used cop show plot of getting a villain to reveal his accomplices in an armed robbery. But La Plante manages to give it a fresh twist, notably by locking up the supergrass (broodingly played by Timothy Dalton) in a safe house with the young detective (David Morrissey) assigned to question him. This allows scope for interplay of character, with the charismatic crook threatening to establish a hold over his uncertain adversary. Meanwhile the plot is developing nicely in the world outside and Timothy West continues to delight with his portrayal of the rough-edged detective inspector, puffing and coughing his way through an endless supply of cigarettes. (Oracle) (5181)
10.00 News at Ten. (Oracle) Weather (336669) **10.35 LWT News and weather** (853535)
10.40 Aids Update 92. The week's aids review ends with a look at scientists' efforts to explain why some HIV-positive people live healthy lives and others do not. (Oracle) (864520)
10.50 The London Programme (147839)
11.20 Dial Midnight. Phone-in entertainment presented by Anastasia Cooke and Samantha Norman (920213)
12.45am One To One. A new series in which Radio 1 DJ Gary Davies interviews top recording artists, beginning with Cher (7305063)
1.25 Bob Down Under. An off-beat look at current Australian trends (11394)
2.25 Cinema Attractions. The latest movie news from the United States (374037)
2.55 Raw Power. Rock video magazine (s) (3325785)
4.00 The Look in the Mirror. The first of a new French drama series about an American woman photographer living in Paris (48740)
5.30 ITN Morning News (72653). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 Cartoons** (47162) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (52297)
9.00 You Bet Your Life. American game show hosted by Bill Cosby (s) (5055453)
9.25 Film: The Adventures of Mark Twain (1934, b/w) starring Fredric March. An entertaining biopic of the creator of Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn. Directed by Irving Rapper (20952097)
11.50 Pete Smith Specialities: Pedestrian Safety (b/w) (8905181)
12.00 The Parliament Programme. Presented by Anne Perkins (41742)
12.30 Sesame Street. Pre-school learning programme (8384) **1.30 The Herbs** (75872452) **1.45 The Changers** (75877907)
2.00 Film: When Ladies Meet (1941, b/w). The Joan Crawford season continues with this witty comedy drama in which she stars as a successful writer in love with her married publisher. With Robert Taylor, Greer Garson and Herbert Marshall. Directed by Robert Z. Leonard (2084)
4.00 Travelog. Pete McCarthy and Animaleta Foma report from different parts of Russia (r). (Teletext) (s) (820)
4.30 Fifteen to One. Fast-moving general knowledge quiz (s) (704)
5.00 Cutting Edge: Dispossessed. The work of Westminster Council's Homeless Persons Unit (r) (5094)
6.00 Blossom. Comedy series about a teenage girl in an otherwise all-male Los Angeles household (s) (297)
6.30 Happy Days. American high school comedy (549)
7.00 The Channel 4 News (247891)
7.50 First Reaction. Tim Mollers comments on Baffa's advertising awards (463471)
8.00 Brookside. Suburban Merseyside soap. (Teletext) (5471)



An expensive ride: competing with the social elite (8.30pm)

- 8.30 Short Stories: The Pony Club**. © CHOICE: Bowler-hatted and formidable, "Granny" Hanks teaches at the Haythrop Hunt, an exclusive pony club in Oxfordshire. Anyone can join, she says, as long as they pay the subscription. The amount of the sub is not revealed but the cost of buying and keeping ponies runs into thousands of pounds a year. No wonder that you can cut the accounts with a knife. Veronica Reinhardt's film features a relatively ordinary family which is managed to join this social elite. The Nabbits, who have two pony-riding daughters, are not poor. Their house looks spacious and it has a swimming pool. But to support the ambitions of young Zoe and Joanne, sacrifices have to be made. Mum works full-time as a hairdresser and there will be no foreign holiday. Can competition success make these deprivations worth while? (1278)
9.00 Spirit of Trees. In the penultimate programme of his series Dick Warner visits the world's oldest living trees, in the White Mountains of California. (Teletext) (4100)
9.30 Cheers. The first of a new series of the popular American comedy about the staff and customers of a Boston bar. (Teletext) (53029)
10.00 Nurses. Miami-based black comedy. (Teletext) (s) (42471)
10.30 Clive Anderson Talks Back. With Peter Cook. This Vidal and Henry Carpenter (s) (140817)
11.10 The World. Worldwide entertainment magazine (s) (326100)
12.10am Film: Lethal (1984) starring Warren Beatty and Jean Seberg. An adaptation of J.R. Salamanca's controversial novel about a Korean war veteran who becomes a trainee therapist and embarks on an affair with one of his over-sexed patients. An ambitious, sometimes obscure last film from director/writer Robert Rossen (19158143)
2.15 Twilight Zone: The Dummy (b/w). A tale of the supernatural, starring Cliff Robertson (1161765)
2.40 American Football: Play Action (7073969). Ends at 3.10

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VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA**
 As London except: 2.15-3.10 The Goldenrod Intestines (7487339) 3.30-5.40 The Young Doctors (3857888) 5.10-5.40 News. (Ceebeak) (850222) 6.25-7.00 Anglia News (622778) 10.50 Film: *Take This Job and Shove It* (1978) 11.20-1.25 Film: *The Slut* (4541256)
BORDER
 As London except: 1.45 Challenge of the Sea (555559) 2.15-3.10 Donut (748739) 3.30-5.40 The Young Doctors (3857888) 5.10-5.40 News and weather (850222) 6.25-7.00 The Young Doctors (3857888) 7.10-7.30 The Young Doctors (3857888) 7.30-7.40 The Young Doctors (3857888) 7.40-7.50 The Young Doctors (3857888) 7.50-8.00 The Young Doctors (3857888) 8.00-8.10 The Young Doctors (3857888) 8.10-8.20 The Young Doctors (3857888) 8.20-8.30 The Young Doctors (3857888) 8.30-8.40 The Young Doctors (3857888) 8.40-8.50 The Young Doctors (3857888) 8.50-9.00 The Young Doctors (3857888) 9.00-9.10 The Young Doctors (3857888) 9.10-9.20 The Young Doctors (3857888) 9.20-9.30 The Young Doctors (3857888) 9.30-9.40 The Young Doctors (3857888) 9.40-9.50 The Young Doctors (3857888) 9.50-10.00 The Young Doctors (3857888) 10.00-10.10 The Young Doctors (3857888) 10.10-10.20 The Young Doctors (3857888) 10.20-10.30 The Young Doctors (3857888) 10.30-10.40 The Young Doctors (3857888) 10.40-10.50 The Young Doctors (3857888) 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Indians prepare for night duty in South Africa

SPORT

FRIDAY DECEMBER 4 1992

RUGBY UNION 46

British Lions resist the lure of sponsorship

US court rules IAAF 'malicious'

Judge awards Reynolds £17m damages

BY JOHN GOODBODY

HARRY "Butch" Reynolds, the world 400 metres record-holder, was yesterday awarded damages of £17.67 million (US \$27.3 million) in his lawsuit against the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF). It is the largest legal settlement of damages to a competitor in the history of sport.

Even as wealthy a body as the IAAF may have difficulty in finding the money. However, the world governing body will have to pay, unless an appeal is successful. Otherwise all future international athletics meetings in the United States would be in jeopardy, including the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta.

The United States federal court also ruled that the IAAF was "malicious" in its treatment of Reynolds, who was barred from competing for two years after a positive drugs test in Monte Carlo on August 12, 1990. The IAAF extended the ban on Reynolds until January 1, 1993, for taking part in the 1992 US Olympic trials, after a US Supreme Court ruling.

Reynolds, 28, who won the silver medal at the 1988 Olympics and set the world record of 43.29sec in Zurich in 1988, has been battling for

two years to prove his innocence. He said yesterday: "My life has been hell. I did nothing wrong. I have proved that. I stood up for what is right. It has made me stronger and I am looking to move on. Time heals all wounds."

Judge Joseph Kearney, a US district judge in Columbus, Ohio — where Reynolds lives — found that Reynolds lost \$6.3 million during the suspension and, in addition, he awarded \$20.5 million in punitive damages.

The IAAF has repeatedly refused to accept Reynolds's claim that he was wrongly suspended. It has also contended that the US courts have no jurisdiction over the IAAF, whose headquarters are in London; indeed, the IAAF was not represented in court in Columbus. Primo Nebiolo, president of the IAAF, has said that the organisation will never accept a decision of any American court against its rules.

Enrico Jacomini, Nebiolo's chief of staff, said in Rome last night: "There will be no comment from the IAAF nor from the president."

Reynolds claimed yesterday that the extension of the ban to January 1 "crushed me financially. I had races lined up in

Europe, including a showdown with Quincy Watts [the 1992 Olympic champion]. He added that he had spent about \$1 million of his own money on private investigators, lawyers and doctors in the past two years and had lost an estimated \$4.5 million in appearance fees and endorsement income.

Reynolds, speaking from Louisville, Kentucky, where he is attending the annual meeting of The Athletics Congress (TAC), the national governing body of athletics in the US, said: "I hope this proves my innocence. The court's decision was based on facts. I hope this will restore my name and reputation. I went through a lot of difficulties, both myself and my family. Now I hope to relax a little more."

The judgment prevents the IAAF from taking action against other athletes who were "contaminated" by competing against Reynolds while the ban was effective.

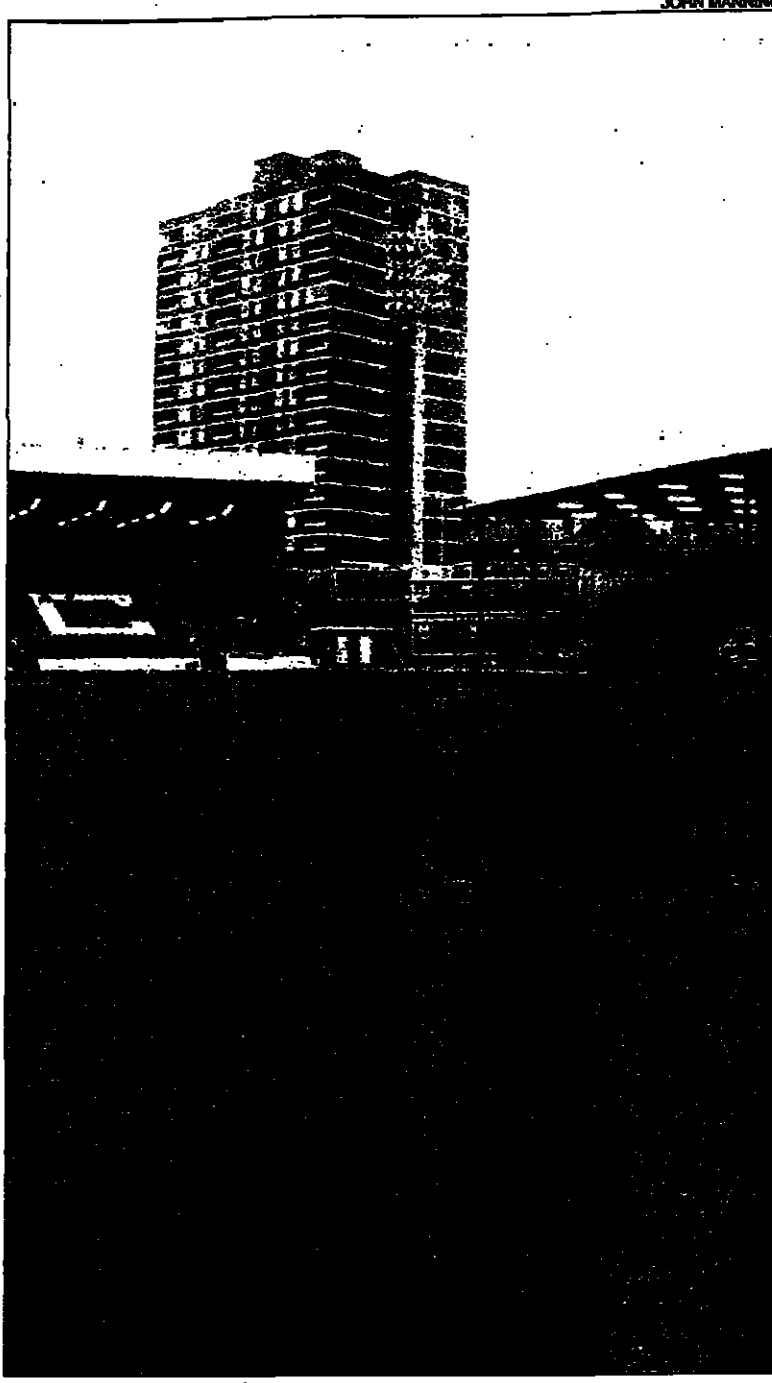
Reynolds's first race after his suspension will be in the Millrose Games in New York on February 5.

When Reynolds appealed against the ban last May, the IAAF arbitration panel turned down the claim of his lawyers that the drug-testing procedure of the laboratory in Paris had been flawed. This was an argument accepted by TAC, which supported Reynolds in his appeal.

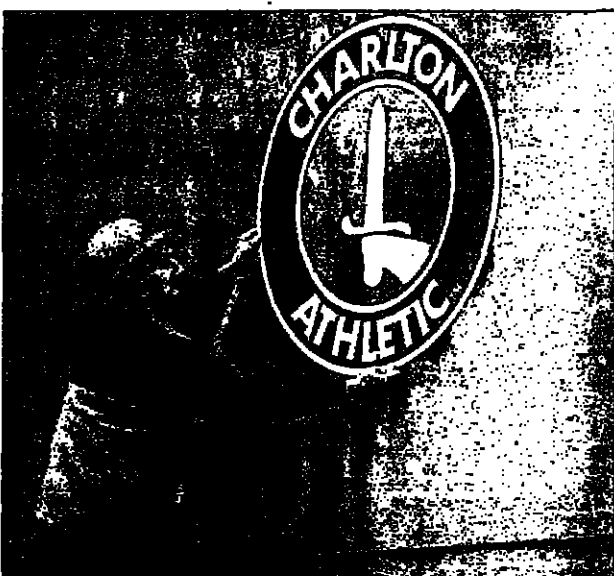
Reynolds's lawyers argued that the documentation was incomplete, specifically on who in the laboratory handled the ten urine samples taken at the meeting in Monte Carlo and transported to Paris for analysis.

The American courts were sympathetic in June when Reynolds turned to them to force TAC to allow him to compete in the US Olympic trials. He finished fifth in the 400 metres final and was named as a reserve for the relay team, but the International Olympic Committee made it clear that he would not be permitted to run in Barcelona.

Charlton return to their Valley of dreams



Back to the future: the resplendent new ground at The Valley, above left, contrasts sharply with the derelict state which followed Charlton's departure seven years ago. Below, the finishing touches are applied before the club's return to its former home tomorrow



THE Valley is green once more. Where weeds grew seven years ago, there is immaculate sward. The twisted iron and cracked concrete have been replaced by gleaming new stands. After 2,627 days, Charlton Athletic, football's best-known itinerants, return home tomorrow (Nigel Williamson writes).

Since leaving The Valley on September 21, 1985, Charlton and their long-suffering supporters have commuted uncomfortably, first round the South Circular Road to Selhurst Park and latterly through the Blackwall tunnel to Upton Park. Always the fans dreamed that, one day, Charlton would return home.

They kept up relentless pressure on the club's directors. They formed the Valley Party and put up candidates in local elections. They stumped up more than £1 million of the £4.4 million spent on refurbishing the old ground. The stage is set and tomorrow, against Portsmouth, the dream becomes reality.

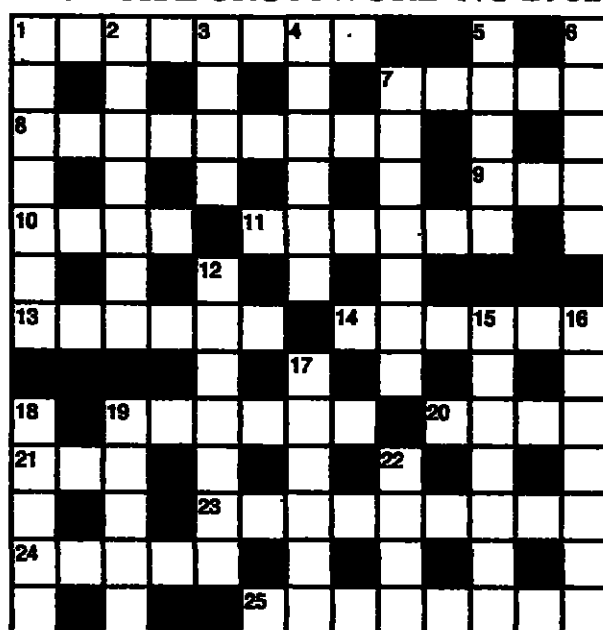
None of the Charlton team which will run out in a new strip has played at The Valley before. For many of the younger supporters,

too, it will be the first visit to the historic ground. Yet all will share the intense emotion of returning home.

The roars inside The Valley will have a loud and proud ancestry. The Valley once packed in more than 75,000 to see Charlton take on Arsenal. The capacity on the club's return will be 8,000 but that number will be swelled many times over by the ghosts of Charlton past: the manager, Jimmy Seed, who on the only occasion Charlton won the FA Cup, in 1947, dropped the trophy and broke off the top; the remarkable goalkeeper, Sam Bartram, who once took a penalty, hit the bar and as the ball rebounded ran back to save a shot at the other end; Johnny Summers, who at The Valley on Boxing Day in 1957 hit five goals after Charlton had been 5-1 down to Huddersfield with half an hour to go. Charlton won 7-6.

Tomorrow, nobody will be surprised if Charlton get thrashed. They have only won once since September. Yet defeat will not spoil the party. All that matters this weekend is that the club has come home.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2962



- ACROSS**
- 1 Tranquil state (8)
 - 7 Pleats (5)
 - 8 Nasty (9)
 - 9 Communist (3)
 - 10 Boxing session (4)
 - 11 Double-cross (6)
 - 13 Lure (6)
 - 14 One and only (6)
 - 19 Body cleansing stream (6)
 - 20 Tablet (4)
 - 21 Rower (3)
 - 23 Wearisome (9)
 - 24 Cut (5)
 - 25 Innocuous (8)
- DOWN**
- 1 Carp (7)
 - 2 Under care (2,5)
 - 3 Gardener's basket (4)
 - 4 Nonsense (6)
 - 5 Frightening (5)
 - 6 Out of mind (5)
 - 7 Fate dish (7)
 - 12 Compunction (7)
 - 15 La Mancha don (7)
 - 16 Joins (7)
 - 17 Irrational fear (6)
 - 18 Domineering (5)
 - 19 Ancient British priest (5)
 - 22 Harsh, formidable (4)

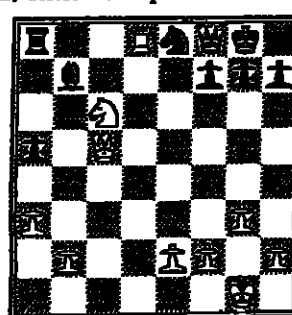
SOLUTIONS TO NO 2961

ACROSS: 7 Yeah 8 Evacuate 9 Wicket 10 Mammoth 11 Shed 12 Citation 15 Fruitful 17 Body 18 Chalet 21 Mekong 22 Runt
DOWN: 1 Decipher 2 Choked 3 Tentacle 4 Calm 5 Submit 6 Otto 13 Tentacle 14 Ordinal 16 Ullage 17 Bakery 19 Hail 20 Tops

WHINING MOVE

By RAYMOND KEENE, Chess Correspondent

This position is a variation from the game Danielian — Borisov, Bmo 1991. White is a piece down and must act quickly before black consolidates. Can you see his winning combination?



Solution on page 44.

CROSSWORD ENTHUSIASTS: For mail order details of all Times Crossword Books and The Times Computer Crossword software for beginners or experts, (runs on most PCs), telephone Akom Ltd on 081 852 4575 Mon-Fri after 4pm or weekends, or call CDS Doncaster on 0302 890 000. Postage free until Christmas (applies UK only).

WORD WATCHING

By PHILIP HOWARD

- NAEVE**
- a. A flaw
 - The floor of a chapel
 - Simple, ingenious
- GARBOIL**
- A skin blister
 - Disorder
 - Refuse, litter
- Answers on page 44
- MICHER**
- Exaggerated
 - A plant container
 - A pillar
- PUERS**
- Neapolitan toy-bows
 - Dog's dung
 - The congregation

Liverpool's hopes of reprieve rise

BY IAN ROSS

THE chances of Liverpool becoming the second English football team to be reinstated in European competition this season appear to have improved over the past 48 hours. Their case for readmission to the Cup Winners' Cup is based upon the possible ineligibility of Mikhail Rusayev, the former Soviet Union international, who appeared as a substitute for Spartak Moscow in both legs of the second-round victory over Liverpool last month.

Although Rusayev completed a transfer from Oldenburg, of the German second division, to Spartak during the summer, it seems he is still not officially registered with his new club. Under the rules which govern European football's three leading cup competitions, the responsibility for ensuring that all players are

properly registered rests with the home association.

At first, the matter was not thought to be as serious as the one earlier in the season when VfB Stuttgart and Leeds United were ordered to play a third game in a neutral country after the German club admitted naming four foreign players — one more than is permitted — in their squad for the second leg of a European Cup tie at Elland Road.

However, Uefa, European football's governing body, has come under considerable pressure in recent weeks to follow the precedent and to rule that Spartak, albeit unwittingly, were in breach of regulations. Three days ago, Liverpool officials believed that Spartak's failure to register Rusayev would be regarded as little more than a technical offence, and that their hopes of a reprieve were slender. This morning, they believe they

have an even-money chance. Liverpool's fate may not, however, be known today. The question of what punishment should be meted out to Spartak if the case against them is proved is to be discussed by Uefa's control and disciplinary committee, but the form of this hearing will give a clear indication about the likely outcome.

If, as is still possible, the offence is deemed to be of a minor, administrative nature, it will be discussed by the members of the committee by telephone, with a decision likely by early afternoon. If Uefa is considering expelling the Russians, the committee is likely to convene in Zurich over the weekend, so delaying any formal announcement until early next week.

Any serious breach of regulations would almost certainly result in Spartak forfeiting any game in which Rusayev

played by the mandatory Uefa scoreline of 3-0. That would give Liverpool a 6-0 aggregate victory. It would also serve to reprieve Avenir Beggen, the Luxembourg representatives who were defeated by Spartak in the first round.

Were Spartak to be eliminated, Liverpool and Beggen would be required to play each other at a neutral venue to contest the right to face Feyenoord, of Holland, in the quarter-finals in March.

Any game between the clubs is likely to be scheduled for early in the new year. A Uefa spokesman said yesterday that the question of Rusayev's eligibility would be discussed this morning. "At this stage, it is not possible to indicate what the outcome might be," he said. "Once a decision has been taken we shall immediately issue a statement outlining what action, if any, is to be forthcoming."

MCC sets up extraordinary meeting

BY IVO TENNANT

MCC is to hold its extraordinary general meeting (EGM), to debate a resolution of no confidence in England's selection committee, on January 27 at Westminster Central Hall. Although this venue, which it has used before, will cost £1,000 to hire for the evening, the club is aware that the debate over the dropping of David Gower has become so emotive as to attract a greater number of members than would fit into the indoor school at Lord's.

"We still hope to keep our total costs to £17,000," Lieutenant-Colonel John Stephenson, secretary of MCC, said yesterday. "We have no idea

how many members will come in addition to those who will vote by post, and could have put up a marquee or kicked out the people using the indoor school, but Westminster is bigger and will be convenient for members coming out of offices."

"We are doing our best to get the papers out to members with our Christmas mail to save money." An MCC working party is considering the idea that there should be two speakers on behalf of the club and two representing the signatories.

Although the EGM has been forced by only 260 of MCC's 17,400 members, it is likely that an amendment to the club's rules will not be

discussed until the annual meeting in May. "It is a ridiculously small number of people who have brought about this EGM on something over which we have no control," Lt-Col Stephenson said, "and there were some members who were livid about it at our monthly dinner."

"But we should not over-react to members' rights. To try to gag them would prove to be counter-productive. My feeling is that the members are acceptable but an extraordinary meeting should relate to affairs of the club. Otherwise we will end up debating whether Mr Lamont should get the sack."

Dennis Oliver, spokesman for the signatories, said he

expected the resolution to be passed "by a handsome majority". Donald Treford, editor of *The Observer*, has been deputed to put the signatories' case in MCC's mailing. Roy Edey, the Kent member who is attempting to bring about a vote of no confidence in the Test and County Cricket Board over the introduction of coloured clothing in the Sunday League, is seeking support from members of all the other first-class counties.

Edey, who has been told he would have to pay for an extraordinary meeting, is concerned that coloured clothing will be introduced for floodlit Test matches in England.

Tough for Indians, page 46

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